

The NSO Specimen Transit Time Indicator

Introduction

Timely newborn screening (NBS) allows babies affected with the diseases screened to be identified early and access the treatment they need to prevent serious health problems – this is the primary purpose of NBS.

The NSO Transit Time indicator is a site specific graphical report showing the time in days that it takes from the collection of a NBS dried blood spot (DBS) specimen to its receipt at NSO.

Transit time includes the time between specimen collection and courier pick-up AND courier transport time.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by some submitters, transit times are designed to take into account the availability of weekend courier services and submitter remoteness.

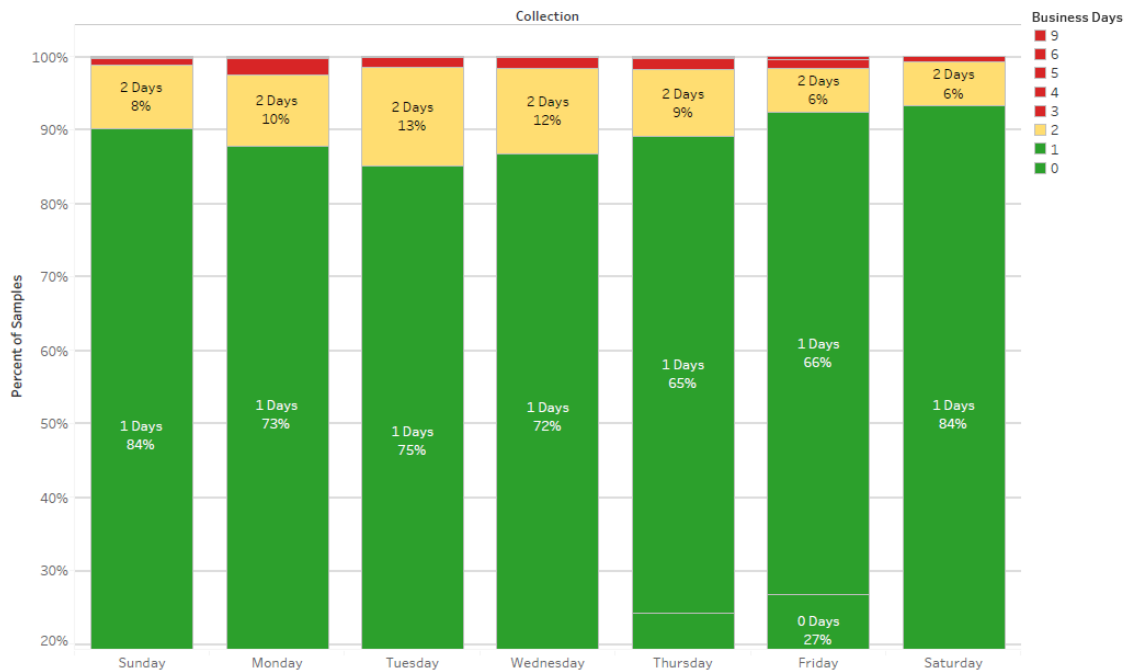
NSO Transit time calculations take into consideration whether the courier system is able to provide weekday *overnight* delivery of your specimens to NSO, and whether Friday night pick-up for Saturday delivery, and Saturday pick-up for Monday delivery at NSO are courier options available to you.

Most sites in Ontario have access to Friday specimen pick up for Saturday delivery at NSO, and some sites have access to Saturday pickup for Monday delivery at NSO.

Contact NSO to determine if you have newborn screening weekend courier service options available to you, that you may not be taking advantage of.

If your site cannot participate in overnight Saturday deliveries and/or Saturday pickups for Monday delivery at NSO, please continue to send screening specimens Monday to Friday.

Province of Ontario - All



Benchmark and Interpretation

Data is displayed based on the day of the week of specimen collection and includes all specimens received at NSO during the period of the report.

Transit time benchmarks are site specific and calculated to reflect your performance at using the courier services available at your location.

If weekday *overnight* delivery, Friday night pick-up for Saturday delivery, and Saturday pick-up for Monday delivery at NSO are NOT courier options available to you, your transit time benchmark has been customized accordingly.

For example:

- Specimens shipped Friday, from locations where overnight delivery at NSO on Saturday is not available, will be awarded a 1 day transit time if those shipped specimens are received on Monday.
- specimens shipped Friday from locations where overnight delivery at NSO on Saturday is available, will be awarded a 1 day transit time if those specimens are received at NSO on Saturday, and a 2 day transit time if those specimens are received on Monday.

Sunday courier services are not currently available.

COLOUR	TRANSIT TIME	MESSAGE
Green	One transit day from specimen collection to receipt at NSO.	Great job- you are right on target!
Yellow	Two transit days from specimen collection to receipt at NSO.	Getting this time down to one day should be an easy fix.
Red	Three to fourteen transit days between specimen collection and receipt at NSO. Please see the legend located to the right of the transit time graph to find out the specific number of transit days for your specimens in this range.	If you are seeing red, these babies are not receiving timely NBS. Quality review and corrective action are needed.

Specimen transport delays are not usually courier related but your report will reflect weather related or courier operational delays. If after reviewing your records you find evidence of courier related delays, please contact NSO and we will be happy to assist you with your investigation.

NSO recommends that specimens be dried for at least 3 hours prior to shipping. To account for adequate specimen drying time, a drying allowance has been incorporated into the transit time calculations. Specimens collected prior to 8 am are expected to be shipped same day, with the exception of Sunday or those locations where Saturday pickups are not available.

Note: Specimens received in the NSO lab >14 days after collection are considered unsatisfactory and require a repeat specimen collection, and are therefore not included in the transit time report.

