

Newborn Screening Bulletin 2025-9

October 23, 2025

Fall submitter webinar

Thank you for completing our Educational Needs Assessment this past June! We're excited to invite you to our upcoming **fall submitter webinar**. Through engaging case presentations, we'll explore the *why* behind our practices and the *what* we ask of you as our trusted health care partners. We will also address commonly asked questions regarding newborn screening.



Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Location: Online (no registration required): [Beyond the Screen: Real-Life Cases & Lessons from Newborn Screening Ontario | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

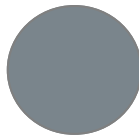
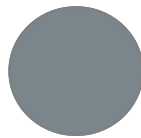
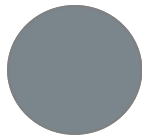
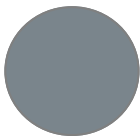
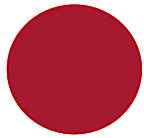
Meeting ID: 297 450 989 763 3	Dial in by phone
Passcode: QR3gp2cC	+1 613-800-6845, 357803892# Canada, Ottawa (844) 604-5262, 357803892# Canada (Toll-free)

Dried blood spot card reminders

We've received a few questions recently regarding how to complete certain sections of the dried blood spot card. Our [Submitter Hub](#) provides information on [Completing the Newborn Screening Card](#) as well as [Common Errors and Potential Harms](#). A few important reminders:

- **Gestational age:** document the gestational age at the time of birth
- **Level of care:** for infants admitted to a NICU or Special Care Nursery, indicate the level of care at time of sample collection. Otherwise, indicate "1/NA".
- **Infants on TPN:** indicate the number of hours TPN was held prior to collection. If TPN was not held, indicate this by writing "0" hours. Please see the [TPN Hold Protocol](#) and past [bulletin on documenting TPN holds](#) for more information.
- **Transfusions:** indicate if the infant has received a packed red blood cell (PRBC) transfusion, and if so, the time of initial transfusion. **This includes intrauterine fetal transfusions received before birth.** More information can be found on the [Special Considerations page](#) on our Submitter Hub, as well as our [Transfusions and Newborn Screening Sample Collection Tip Sheet](#).
- **Adoption, surrogacy, and CAS care:** please check off the appropriate box on the requisition. This will prompt us to follow-up with the submitter for confirmation prior to contacting the parent/guardian for any follow-up related to a screen positive or unsatisfactory newborn screening results. The infant's parents or CAS agency should be indicated in the parents/guardians section, as they will be the primary contact for any required follow-up.

PARENTS/GI	Address										Phone Number									
	City										Prov. Postal Code									
	IF NOT BIRTH PARENTS: PLEASE SPECIFY RELATIONSHIP TO INFANT																			
	☐ Adoption ☐ Baby in CAS care ☐ Surrogate ☐ Other (specify):																			



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Unsatisfactory samples and repeat requests

Starting **November 1st**, NSO will be updating its reporting process for dried blood spot samples deemed unsatisfactory.

Currently, if a sample contains insufficient blood to complete the full testing panel but allows for partial testing of priority conditions, NSO issues a partial negative result report and requests a repeat sample. If the sample cannot be tested at all, an unsatisfactory report is faxed to the submitter along with the repeat request.

In the case of any unsatisfactory sample, NSO will send only the **repeat request letter** to the submitter. This change will streamline our process for handling unsatisfactory samples and help reduce turnaround time for requesting repeat specimens.

Please note: **Our process for managing positive results remains unchanged.** Infants who screen positive on any sample will continue to be referred promptly.

It is important to obtain satisfactory dried blood spot samples to reduce the need for recollection and delays in screening. Our Submitter Hub provides information on [unsatisfactory samples](#), including [types of quality issues](#), as well as steps on [how to obtain a satisfactory sample](#).

Thank you for your continued collaboration in supporting timely and accurate newborn screening.

