

BULLETIN #51

June 16, 2011

Update on Canada Post Lockout / Strike

Further to our bulletin earlier this month, we wanted to remind all hospitals submitting samples to Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) of the following:

1) Xpresspost™ Envelopes

NSO continues to receive some Xpresspost™ envelopes each day. As previously communicated, all submitters should be using Canpar, with the exception of a minority of submitters who have been instructed to use Purolator. If you are still using Xpresspost™, please stop shipping samples using these envelopes and contact Tammy St-Amant at 613-738-3222 x0 immediately. Tammy can assist you in transitioning to a different courier service. Please send any NSO Xpresspost™ envelopes that you have back to NSO.

2) Screen Negative Mailers

For the duration of the lockout/strike, negative mailers will be batched and sent by Canpar once a week.

3) Unsatisfactory Sample Mailers

Submitters will continue to receive daily phone calls regarding samples that are unsatisfactory for testing or where pertinent demographic information is missing. Unsatisfactory mailers indicating the need for a repeat sample will be faxed to the submitting institution twice a week and hard copies will be sent with the negative reports weekly for the duration of the lockout / strike.

4) Screen Positive Mailers

Screen positive infants are referred out by phone and fax to a regional treatment centre who retrieves the infant for follow up. Once retrieval has been confirmed by the treatment centre, the screen positive mailer is forwarded to the submitting hospital. As there is no further action required by the submitter in the retrieval of the screen positive infant, these reports will also be sent weekly via Canpar.

5) If you notice any service interruptions relating to the shipment of newborn screening samples during this period of time, please contact Tammy St-Amant at 613-738-3222 x0.

In special circumstances where an interim report is required, contact NSO by fax to make these requests. We would appreciate receiving feedback regarding these implementations and whether they have positively or negatively impacted your institution, or whether these were of no consequence to your daily practice.

These bulletins are circulated to keep you abreast of changes to Newborn Screening Ontario. Please share this information with any relevant personnel in your hospital / practice. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, contact NSO at: (613) 738-3222, option #0 or at NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca.