



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2017-9

June 14, 2017

NSO TO TEST ALL NEWBORN SCREENING SAMPLES FOR EDTA CONTAMINATION

NSO aims to provide high quality newborn screening results for every baby born in Ontario. Newborn screening blood samples that are contaminated with EDTA can produce clinically inaccurate values for some analytes. Some capillary tubes contain anticoagulants such as EDTA, leading to sample contamination during sample collection. The Newborn Screening Manual and blood dot card both indicate that EDTA should not be used when collecting newborn screening samples.

To ensure that we are providing accurate newborn screening results for all infants, NSO is pleased to announce that beginning on June 19, 2017, we will test every newborn screening sample for the presence of EDTA. Samples that are contaminated with EDTA will be deemed unsatisfactory for testing and will require an immediate repeat sample. We will inform you of the need for a repeat via fax and mail, as per our current process for samples deemed unsatisfactory for testing.

Samples collected via heelstick and applied directly to the newborn screening blood dot card (method of choice) will not be contaminated by EDTA.

Please contact us at newbornscreening@cheo.on.ca if you have any questions about the information in this bulletin.

Thank you for your continued involvement in ensuring every newborn in Ontario receives newborn screening.