At Banner Ironwood Medical Center newborn screens are drawn on every patient at 24 hours of age by the bedside RN. This includes completing the test request form as well as collecting of the blood specimen. The specimen is placed in the drying rack on post-partum and the nurse then verifies that an order is placed in our electronic medical record.

We have a designated staff member that collects newborn screens every morning and prepares them for transport via FedEx. This staff member collects the screens from the drying rack, making sure they have dried for at least 3 hours. She verifies all information is completed on the test request form and logs each patient's information in the transport log. The yellow copy is then removed and retained with the log for final verification. All newborn screens that are verified as ready for transport are placed together alternating directions into a FedEx envelope. The shipment is ordered on FedEx.com and the confirmation sheet is printed and placed inside the envelope. The envelope is hand carried to the designated pickup location in Materials Management.

When results are returned this same staff member verifies against the log and yellow copies to ensure all screens sent are resulted. Once this verification is complete the results are sent to medical records to be scanned into the medical record.

Our keys to success are related to staff ownership of the collection process and having a dedicated team member responsible for the shipping and verification process. If you do not have one individual that can consistently perform this role, a defined repeatable workflow that is consistently followed is imperative.