Memo

To: Arizona Department of Health Services  
From: Mark Grabowska, Director Laboratory Services  
Subject: Newborn Screening  
Date: April 4, 2014

At Sierra Vista Regional Health Center we were informed of lengthy transit times on Newborn screening samples during an on-site Arizona Perinatal Trust recertification in 2013 of Maternal/Child services at the hospital. At that time we increased the number of times we sent the Newborn screening samples from two to three days each week. However, when we discovered in January that the transit times were still beyond the recommended 3 days we began to send them daily (Mon-Fri). This allowed us to meet the less than 3 day recommendation in February.

To ensure and improve our transit times in the future, the laboratory has updated our procedure to include detailed instructions on how to send and track the samples daily, so that when a primary team member is gone the department can continue to send the samples each day. We also look forward to participating in the Saturday pickup service, which should continue to improve our overall performance.