Improving Transit Time of Newborn Bloodspots in Arizona

Transit Time Taskforce

Celia Nabor
Isaac Lee
Sondi Aponte
Our Population is Spread Out

- 6th largest land/water
- 6.5 million population
- 15 Counties
- 60.5% Maricopa
- 15% Pima County
- 24.5% in 13 other counties
- 43 birth hospitals included in the analysis
- 90,000 births
- 310 miles east to west
- 400 miles north to south
- One state laboratory
“Arizona has one of the worst track records in the country, with 17% of all newborn screening samples arriving at the state lab five or more days after collection in 2012.”
How will Arizona NBS achieve.....

Quality
Transparency
Accountability
Partnerships

Owen
50 years of NBS
Goal Shared at NBS Advisory Meeting and with the press

Director Will Humble says, “Within six months (by July 1, 2014), **95%** of newborn screening bloodspots (initial screens) will be received at the Arizona Public Health Laboratory within three days of collection.”

WOW!
Quality Improvement Methods

- **Step 1** Identify the problem
- **Step 2** Define the situation
- **Step 3** Analyze the problem
- **Step 4** Develop action plan
- **Step 5** Look at the results
- **Step 6** Repeat
Analysis

• Excessive batching
• Specimen shipping not occurring within 24 hours of collection
• Satellite locations for hospitals
• No courier services during holidays and Saturdays
• Performance reports for Transit Time not available
• Hospital internal processes inconsistent
• Courier service limitations
January - March

- Private/public partnership development
- Baseline data released to hospital leadership teams
- Develop curriculum and offer educational webinars for hospital staff
- Conduct site visits
- Launch Transit Time webpage
Launched the Transit Time Website

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recently accessed de-identified information for Newborn Screening Programs nationwide through an open-records request. The Sentinel published their findings on delays in newborn screening testing due to delayed bloodspot delivery to the laboratory for testing (transit times). These findings revealed many opportunities for improvement.

In an effort to improve services to newborns and families, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) developed an internal taskforce to lead newborn screening transit time initiatives, effective January 2014. ADHS is committed to transparency, accountability, and increased partnership as stakeholder's progress towards meeting this new statewide goal.

What does the Newborn Screening Transit Time Project offer?
- Information about the Newborn Screening Transit Time Project and new statewide goal
- Monthly performance reports for Arizona birth hospitals
- Answers to frequently asked questions about transit time
- Links to valuable resources
- Ability to request a site visit

What is the new goal for Arizona birth hospitals?
By July 1, 2014, 95% of all newborn screening bloodspots (initial screens) will be received at the Arizona State Laboratory within three (3) days of collection.

How is progress towards the transit time goal measured?
Level II
Average Transit Time

- Maryvale Hospital
- Mountain Vista Med Ctr
- Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center
- Banner Baywood
- Banner Gateway Med Ctr
- Yavapai Regional
- Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn
- West Valley Hospital
- Summit Health (Navapche)
- Mercy Gilbert Medical Ctr
- Banner Del E. Webb
- Banner Ironwood
- Phoenix Baptist
- Paradise Valley

Mean Days

http://www.azdhs.gov/lab/aznewborn_August2014

Health and Wellness for all Arizonans
April 2014

• Implementation of statewide courier-EZ Messenger-Multi Tier approach
• Monday-Saturday pick up and delivery
• Pick up 8:00 AM-11:00 AM
• Same day or next business day delivery
• Lab open six days a week shipping/receiving area
May/June 2014

- Webpage maintenance
- Logistical planning with courier service
- Communication!
- Support to hospitals
- Reinforcement
- Data Analysis

Kaiden
50 years of NBS
Results

In five months 99% of newborn screening bloodspots specimens (initial screens) collected at birth hospitals were received at the Arizona State Laboratory within one day of collection.
March Of Dimes Honors Arizona With First-Ever Newborn Screening Award
Arizona Health Director Honored for Reforms to Avoid Deadly Delays
CHANDLER, ARIZONA — Thursday, September 18, 2014
The AZ TEAM that makes it happen!

Thank you!

www.aznewborn.com