



Newborn Screening Considerations for NICU Babies

It's crucial that timely newborn screening isn't overlooked for all babies in the NICU

Bloodspot Screening

1. The first bloodspot specimen should be collected as close to 24 hours as possible. It should only be collected earlier if:
 - a. Red blood cell transfusion
 - b. Transfer to another hospital or discharge
2. Therapies, transfusion, feeding status and prematurity may affect results
 - a. Parenteral nutrition can yield false positive results
 - b. **Always** mark the card with food source at time of collection
3. The second specimen should be collected between 5 and 10 days of age OR at 5 days if the first collection was at <24 hours of age
 - a. If clinical circumstance dictates, the bloodspot specimen can be collected along with other blood draws, provided clean line protocols are maintained (heel stick is not required to be obtained)
 - b. However, do not obtain blood from umbilical line
4. A complete 3rd screen OR a recall screen may be requested, but is **NOT** routinely required for babies in the NICU

CCHD Screening

1. **Always** document Pulse Ox screen results on collection kit
2. If a baby is not being screened in the NICU, **document the reason why on the collection kit**

Hearing Screening

1. Babies in the NICU > than 5 days are at a higher risk for hearing loss
2. Ensure screening is complete before discharge
3. A NICU baby treated with any of the following (regardless of length of stay) is at higher risk for late onset/progressive hearing loss:
 - a. Assisted ventilation
 - b. Ototoxic medications (gentamycin, tobramycin, loop diuretics)
 - c. Hyperbilirubinemia requiring exchange transfusion
 - d. ECMO
4. A NICU baby that does not pass a hearing screen should not be rescreened but referred for a diagnostic hearing test by an audiologist (preferably a pediatric audiologist)

Newborn Screening: Communicating abnormal results

1. Abnormal results are always called out to the NICU by our Case Management staff
2. Faxed instructions, including a lab report, will follow
3. Always adhere to patient specific instructions and call with specific questions

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Visit the Newborn Screening website: www.aznewborn.com