



Tennessee Department of Health

Division of Laboratory Services

Newborn Screening Specimen Use, Retention, and Disposal Policy

Retention, Referral and Destruction of Newborn Screening Dried Blood Spot Specimens:

Newborn Screening dried blood spots are kept for only two purposes:

1. To enable the infant's doctor to obtain additional tests.
In this case, the blood spots will be released only to a physician or to a reference laboratory upon presentation of a release signed by the parent or guardian of the infant.
2. For quality assessment, quality control and/or calibration of laboratory tests. In this case all information which may identify the infant or family will be removed prior to any retention or use for this purpose.

Retention Period:

Newborn Screening dried blood spots are kept for one year to permit time for the infant's doctor to request additional tests, if required. After one year, both the blood spots and the form containing identification information are destroyed. If particular blood spots are needed for quality assessment, quality control, and/or test calibration, those blood spots may be retained for longer than one year only after destruction of the form containing identifying information, so that the source of the sample cannot be identified.

Disposal of Specimens:

The Newborn Screening dried blood spots will be separated from the form containing patient information and then disposed. The request form with patient information is shredded, and disposed.