

Storage and Handling:

- Once removed from the shipping container, the filter papers should be stored in their original wrapping. They should ideally be stacked on edge to avoid compression.
- Filter papers should be stored away from possible contaminants, direct sunlight, and moisture.
- Do not touch the circles of the filter paper with hands (even gloved) or any other objects before, during, or after collection.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when DBS specimens are handled.

Drying:

- Dry specimens horizontally on a drying rack for at least 3-4 hours at an ambient temperature of 18 to 25 °C (64.4 °F to 77 °F). Air dry only. Do not attempt to use heating devices or fans to accelerate drying.
- Do not hang specimens vertically or stack.
- Do not allow the specimens to touch other objects or specimens.
- Do not fold over the flap until the spots are completely dry.

Shipping:

- Double-check specimen quality and demographic information prior to mailing.
- Once completely dry, fold over flap and place specimens in shipping envelope.
- Specimens should be shipped as soon as they are dry. Do not batch specimens as this can result in delayed detection and treatment of babies with a screened condition.
- Implement a system to track specimen collection, drying, shipment, and receipt.
- Please contact the Vermont Newborn Screening Program for any courier issues, delays, or shipping material requests.

Ship to: New England Newborn Screening Program, Biotech 4, 2nd Floor, UMASS Medical School, 377 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01605-2300

References:

CLSI. *Dried Blood Spot Specimen Collection for Newborn Screening*. 7th ed. CLSI standard NBS01. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2021.