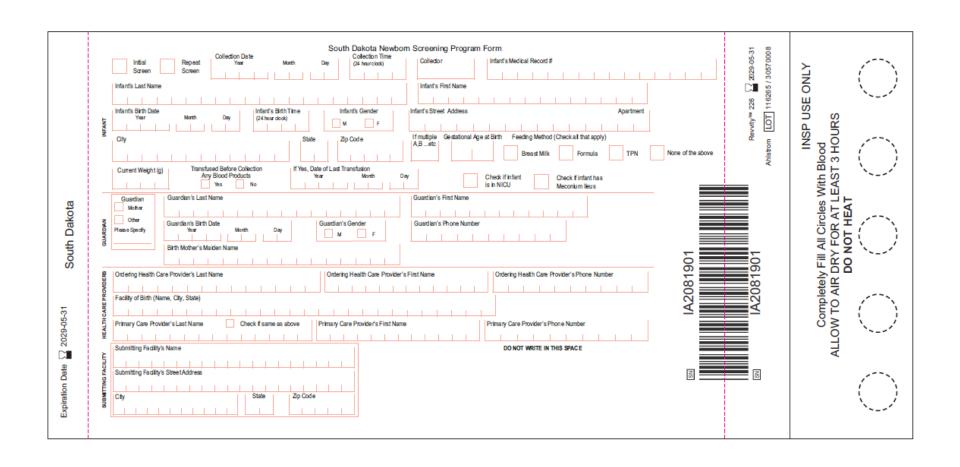


State Hygienic Laboratory

# Newborn Screening Dried Bloodspot Collection Form-7 spot card

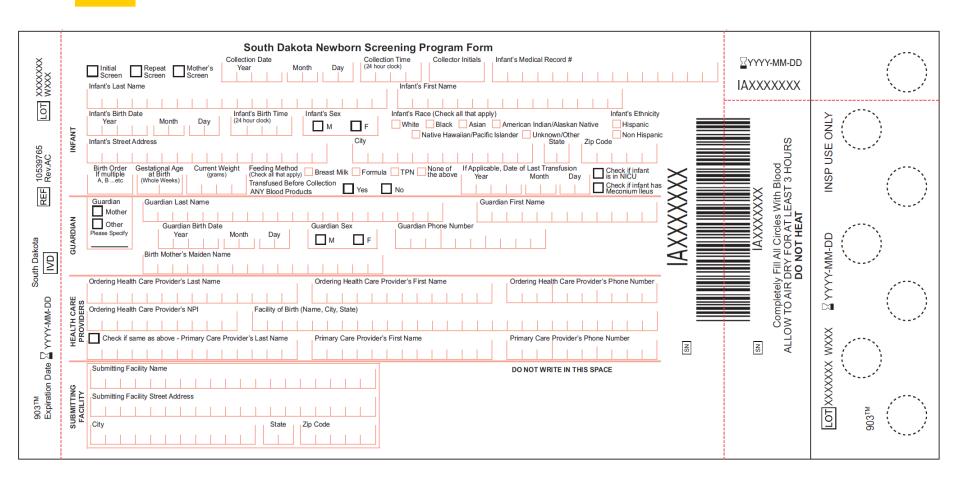
November 11, 2025

# **Current Newborn Screening Card**



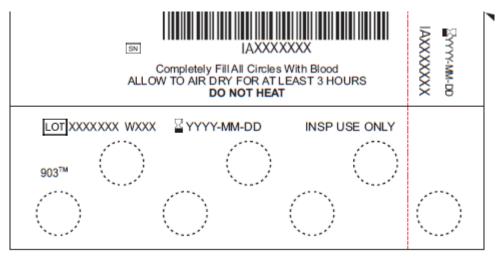


# **Newly Designed Newborn Screening Card**





# What are the changes?



- 1. New Vendor
- 2. Increasing collection card blood requirements from 5 spots to 7.
- 3. Will be adding Race and Ethnicity check boxes
  - 4. Updated language on the instructions on the back of the form.

#### Why Now?

- Increased conditions added to the panel increases the need for blood
- Will be adding Race and Ethnicity to better track and serve underserved populations.
- Aiming to help lower poor-quality rate.



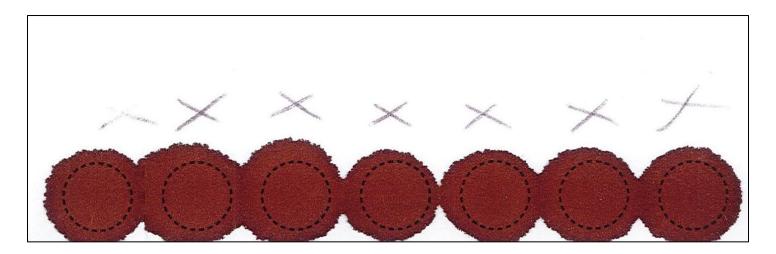
# New manufacturing vendor

- A new vendor been selected as the new manufacturing vendor for the collection card.
- The previous vendor's card was frequently having longer absorption times for blood to soak through the card efficiently. We are hoping to see the average absorption time for each lot stabilize at a lower rate allowing for easier collection.



# Why Staggered bloodspots?

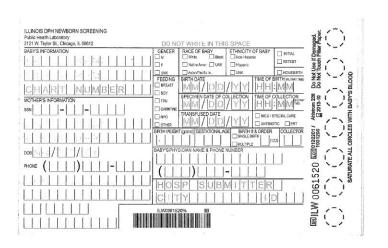
 Iowa piloted the 7 spots cards designed in a straight line in early 2025 and saw an increased number of bloodspots all running into each other and being deemed unsatisfactory for layering

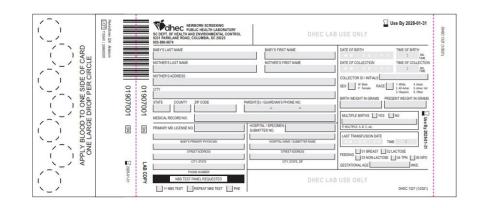




# 7 spots are the Future

- South Carolina & Illinois have already adopted a 7spot card to complete their NBS panel.
- South Carolina saw a 42% decrease in the hospitals unsatisfactory rates when they launched their 7-spot card in April of 2023







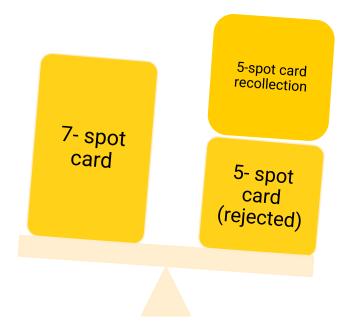
# Are all 7 spots required?

- Results that flag as a borderline or presumptive positive testing are be repeated in duplicate.
- Some tests have second and third tier testing that requires us to send a whole bloodspot to an external lab for confirmation.
- Instrument malfunctions or other errors can require retesting.
- Lot qualifications require comparison to previously run samples.
- More disorders are continually being added to the newborn screening panel requiring us to use more blood than ever to complete the testing.





### More is Less

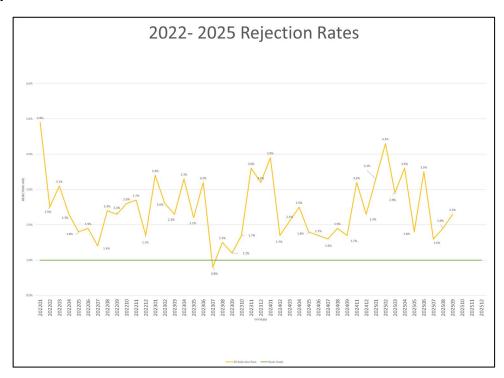


- With the use of more blood to complete the testing panel due to the expansion of disorders screened, means there is less room for error in bloodspot quality. Many children must have at least one repeat screen drawn to obtain valid test results.
- A complete valid 7 spot collection card will require less blood than a 5-spot collection card that is deemed unsatisfactory and requires a recollection of another 5-spot card



# **Poor-Quality Rates**

- Poor Quality rates have been elevated for some time due to a number of reasons including:
- Additional need for bloodspots for new disorders
- Collection cards with an increased absorption time
- Pandemic
- Turnover of staffing at facilities
- Turnover of staff at testing lab





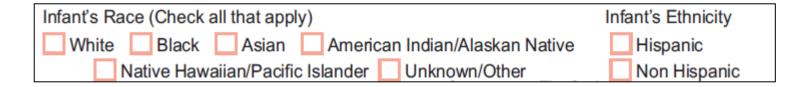


- South Dakota did not previously collect any information on race or ethnicity on the bloodspot collection cards.
- We cannot adjust for what we do not know.

# Underserved Populations

 We are including race and ethnicity in our new card design to help the newborn screening program review population trends and adjust to better provide equitable care for all infants.

## Please Ask the Guardian!



Babies' gender and ethnicity may not match their physical appearance or that of the guardians. Please ask the guardian what race and ethnicity should be marked.

More than one selection can be made for race.



# When will these cards begin shipping?



- Based of current Inventory we anticipate these card will begin being shipped to locations in Spring of 2026
- Exact date and more details to follow as current inventory of 5 spot cards are depleted.
- Reminder: Please try to keep a minimum of 2 months supply of cards at your location.



## **FAQs**

- What if the first puncture site quits bleeding before all 7 spots can be complete?
  - A second puncture can be made on the other side of the heel of the other foot. Do not puncture a site more than once.
- Do preemie babies also need to complete all 7 spots?
  - Always attempt to fill in the card completely as possible. If we have sufficient blood to complete initial testing the screen will not be deemed as poor quality.
- Does the blood spot circle in the perforated section need special treatment?
  - NO. This perforation is for internal lab testing when we have to send for confirmational testing.
- Can blood be put outside of the pre-printed circles?
  - Yes. If you need to put a blood spot outside of the pre-printed circles you may do so. Blood spots should not run into another spot

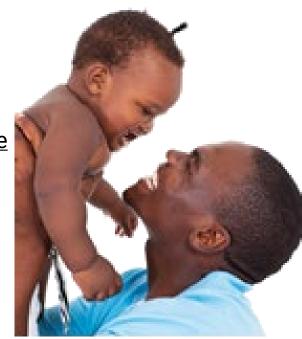


# It's not just a form...It's a baby

- Filling out the newborn screening form...
  - ✓ Accurately
  - √ Completely
  - ✓ Legibly

Could be a matter of life and death

- Inaccurate or missing information may adversely affect screening results and/or the ability to quickly contact the infant's care provider in the event of an abnormal screening result.
- Any delay may put the child's health at risk.
- The specimen submitter is legally responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information on the newborn screening card.

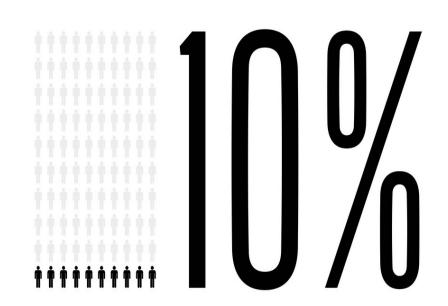


Remember to remove 2<sup>nd</sup> ply for facility's records.

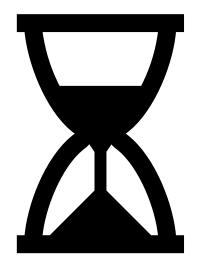


## Impact of Missing or Incorrect Information

- In 2022, 10.2% of all screens submitted to SHL were sent a quality fax requiring further action for at least one of the following reasons:
- Confirmation of collection prior to 24 hours
- Missing or unreadable critical information
- Notification of Unsatisfactory Screen



# Missing Information & Quality Faxes Takes Everyone's time



#### **NBS Lab Staff**

- · Delay Reporting some methods until all others are completed to allow for faxing and corrections to occur
- Accession additional repeat screens

#### Client Services

- · Client Service staff send out daily faxes for missing information and unsatisfactory notifications.
- · Call any Organization without a valid Fax machine to obtain information
- Monitor inbox and Make Corrections to babies records from returned faxes
- Prepare Unsatisfactory Image files to send to Submitting Organization
- · Issue Corrected Reports if corrections are made after results are released.

#### **Submitting Organization**

- Receive Fax
- Look Up correct information
- Fax Back Corrected information to NBS program
- Contact Parents of necessary recollection if screen was unsatisfactory
- Collect Repeat Screen if required

#### **Parents**

· Bring Baby in for recollection if screen was unsatisfactory



## **Contact Information**

- Data entry questions or corrections:
  - State Hygienic Laboratory at 515-725-1630
- To order forms or collection supplies:
  - State Hygienic Laboratory at 515-725-1630
- Web portal or IT problems:
  - 319-335-4358
  - SHL-WebPortalSupport@uiowa.edu
- Follow-up recommendations or refusals:
  - NBS Follow-up clinical staff at 319-384-5097





State Hygienic Laboratory

https://www.shl.uiowa.edu/screening/index.xml