



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2016-7

July 27, 2016

Purolator Delays

As you know, NSO had been experiencing delays in sample shipments because of increased shipment volumes at Purolator due to the possible labour disruption at Canada Post. The shipping times have returned to normal in the last week.

However, the 30-day “cooling off” period between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) will end August 7, 2016. In the event that a lock-out or strike occurs at that time, it is anticipated that Purolator volumes will increase again.

NSO is working closely with Purolator on potential solutions to have newborn screening shipments flagged so that they are prioritized above other shipments in the event of a volume surge. **These solutions will inevitably involve some change to the way that your institution/practice prepares the package for shipping;** however we do not have specific details for you at this time. One of the potential solutions involves the use of printing labels using “thermal transfer” printer. Many patient and lab barcode labels are printed using this kind of printer. If your institution or practice does not have access to this kind of printer, please contact NSO at newbornscreening@cheo.on.ca.

As soon as we have more specific details about the labour dispute and solutions to ensure timeliness of newborn screening shipments, NSO will send out another bulletin and update our website. Stay tuned for further updates next week.

Thank you for your involvement in ensuring Ontario’s newborns get timely access to newborn screening.