



## Newborn Screening Bulletin 2016-9

September 1, 2016

### UPDATE ON THE CANADA POST LABOUR DISPUTE: GOOD NEWS!

Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers have reached a tentative labour agreement, avoiding possible mail disruptions.

NSO is pleased that a strike has been averted and we fully expect Purolator services to return to normal. Please continue to follow your usual shipping practices for transporting newborn screening samples to NSO.

The Chain of Signature (COS) waybills that Purolator was preparing to issue in the event of strike action will not be distributed. In the future, should there be a need to revitalize this plan, NSO and Purolator now have a strategy in place aimed at reducing the risk of delays in the transportation of newborn screening samples.

NSO would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prompt response to our previous bulletin advising you of our contingency plan and the proposed use of COS labels when shipping to NSO. Following the circulation of that communication, you raised some thoughtful questions which NSO will continue to address in our efforts to streamline the contingency process.

### SATURDAY SAMPLE PICK-UPS BY PUROLATOR

Now that Purolator shipping services are returning to normal, NSO is focusing our attention on implementing Saturday sample pickups at your locations. Saturday sample pickups are intended to further improve the timeliness of newborn screening in Ontario. Our goal is to have full Saturday operations in place sometime this fall. We will continue to share the details of this initiative with you as they become finalized.

### GESTATIONAL AGE FIELD ON THE REQUISITION FORM

The gestational age is requested as it is used in the result logic for certain diseases. Similar to calls for missing birthweight, you may receive a call for this data if the field is blank. **For newborn screening purposes, please provide the gestational age at birth (i.e. unadjusted for prem infants) on all samples for an infant.**

All fields on the requisition form should be completed. NSO requests this information because it is important for result interpretation, confirming identity and linking to other samples in our system, and/or locating the infant/family in the event of a screen positive result. Please strive to complete all fields on the requisition form. Demographic labels may be used as long as the fields that are not on the label are also completed

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