



Bulletin #75
January 16, 2014

Expiration Date on Newborn Screening Blood Spot Collection Cards

Yesterday, Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) received a number of samples on expired blood spot cards from multiple submitting hospitals and/or midwifery practices. NSO wanted to take this opportunity to provide some information about expiration dates and ask that you check your stock of newborn screening blood spot collection cards for expired cards and circulate this bulletin to your colleagues involved in newborn screening.

Each blood spot collection card has an expiry date, which can be found in the upper right hand corner of the card next to an hourglass symbol, under the circles designated for blood collection (see picture below). Before collecting the newborn screening sample, ensure that the blood card or collection device has not expired.



If you have a stack of expired cards, these can be returned to NSO. If you only have expired cards left, please continue to use these while you are waiting for new cards. Samples received on expired blood collection cards will be tested but a repeat sample will be requested.

Order new cards from VWR (please see the Newborn Screening Manual: A guide for Newborn Care Providers, the NSO website, or call NSO for ordering details).

Thank you for ensuring that all newborns in our province receive the best possible screening.

Sincerely,
The NSO Team

