



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
OFFICE OF NEWBORN SCREENING  
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Greetings Washington Midwives!

As a result of the statute changes passed by the 2014 legislature, the Newborn Screening Program of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has worked closely with a stakeholder group of midwives, Medicaid representatives, DOH licensing, and DOH laboratory representatives to implement the changes. In addition to requiring testing and submission of specimens for all babies within certain timeframes, the fee for testing will be billed for out-of-hospital births. This letter details the updated billing policy for infants born outside of a hospital.

For newborns born at home and in free-standing birth centers:

- ◆ DOH will begin billing for newborn metabolic screening for midwife-attended out-of-hospital births occurring on and after March 1, 2015
- ◆ The fee is \$77.40 per newborn and is billed with the infant's *first screen only*
- ◆ The billing method will be determined by the Submitter ID on the specimen card ("M" codes for midwives, "B" codes for birth center facilities.)
- ◆ Out-of-hospital births will be billed using one of two methods (see details below):
  1. If the infant's first specimen is collected in a home setting, DOH will bill the client's insurance. ("M" code) Billing information must be included with the specimen.
  2. If the first specimen is collected in a facility, DOH will bill the facility ("B" code.)

### **Billing Method 1: Home Setting Specimen Collection**

When the infant's first specimen is collected in a home setting (Submitter ID code "M"), DOH will bill the client's insurance directly when the specimen is accompanied by insurance information. Every midwife that collects initial newborn screens in a home setting should ensure she/he has been assigned an individual "M" code to use as the Submitter ID on the specimen cards.

For home specimen collections, use the enclosed form to submit the client's billing information to the Newborn Screening Program. Complete the form and send to the State Lab with the infant's first newborn screening specimen. These forms are also available online at [www.doh.wa.gov/NBS](http://www.doh.wa.gov/NBS) and will be included with your next screening card order. Feel free to copy the enclosed form for use until your next card order.

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The midwife is responsible for providing accurate and complete billing information with the initial specimen. **Please note:** Missing or incorrect information will result in the midwife assuming responsibility for the fee. DOH will notify the midwife if billing information is incorrect or missing. If the requested information is not received within 10 days, the midwife will be billed for the fee in full (\$77.40).

When a patient is uninsured (“cash pay” or “self-pay”), please collect a check or money order from the parents or guardian for full payment (\$77.40) and include with the initial specimen. Checks should be made payable to Washington State Department of Health. Do not send cash.

### **Billing Method 2: Facility Setting Specimen Collection**

When the newborn’s initial specimen is collected at a facility, as indicated by the Submitter ID, the facility will be billed and DOH will not bill patient insurance. For example, if the first specimen comes from a hospital, birth center, clinic, or laboratory (Submitter IDs “H” “B” “C” or “L”), that facility will be billed and be responsible for payment of the newborn screening fee (\$77.40). Facilities will receive a monthly invoice along with an itemized list of all first specimens received.

### **Important Reminders:**

- DOH charges for the **FIRST SPECIMEN ONLY** for any newborn. Insurance or other payment information is not required for routine second or repeat specimens.
- If the first specimen for an infant born at home is collected at a facility (clinic, laboratory, hospital, birth center) the facility will be billed for the newborn screening fee.
- Parents declining screening on religious grounds must sign the back of the specimen card; no payment is due. Please remember to complete all demographic information on the front of the card as well.
- Report births to the Newborn Screening Program in one of three ways; 1. File the complete birth certificate in the state Birth Record System (BR3) within ten days of birth; 2. Create a partial birth certificate in BR3 that includes the key birth data (mother’s name, infant’s date of birth and sex) within ten days of birth, or; 3. Fax a paper birth roster with the key birth data to the Newborn Screening Program within seven days of birth.
- DOH is continuing to work with insurance companies to ensure reimbursement of the newborn screening fee.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact our office at 206-418-5410.

**Thank you for your continued dedication to the health of Washington families!**

Enclosures:

- 1- [Payment Form for Infant’s 1<sup>st</sup> Newborn Screen \(NBS\)](#)
- 2- [How to Fill Out Newborn Screening Collection Cards](#)
- 3- [Newborn Screening Fee \(Flyer For Parents\)](#)