



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Children with Special Health Needs
Maine Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program
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REQUESTING DESTRUCTION OF A MAINE NEWBORN BLOODSPOT SCREENING PROGRAM (MNBSB) FILTER PAPER SPECIMEN

The primary use of filter paper specimens is for the processing of newborn screening tests. Residual filter paper specimens may be used for further testing if a child has health problems in the future. The newborn bloodspot specimen may be uniquely helpful in the diagnostic process because it was taken within the first few days of life. Please see <https://www.babysfirsttest.org/newborn-screening/what-happens-to-the-blood-sample> for additional information on the benefits of retaining residual filter paper specimens in the laboratory.

Maine filter papers are processed and stored at the New England Newborn Screening Program (NENSP) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The NENSP destroys specimens on a quarterly basis (usually January, April, July, and October). Specimens are saved for at least one year after a child's birthday. A specimen will be destroyed during the first quarter after the infant turns 1 year old. The NENSP contracts with a company that provides onsite destruction of biohazardous waste.

Requests for destruction of the filter paper specimen may be initiated by parents/guardians, the child's health care provider, or adult individuals. The process for destruction of the filter paper specimen is as follows:

1. Download these instructions and the attached form.
2. Fill out the parent and provider parts of the form and fax to the MNBSB at 207-287-4743.
3. The MNBSB will fill out the program parts of the form and send to the laboratory where the specimens are stored.
4. The NENSP will contact the MNBSB when the specimen has been destroyed, and you will be notified by mail.

