



Biochemical Sciences  
North Wing, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7EH

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Users,

**Re: Newborn Screening Bloodspot Card retrieval and release**

From May 2018 the South East Thames Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory will be including a carriage charge for all requests received for release of dried bloodspot cards (DBS) from our laboratory/storage facilities.

As you may be aware, the majority of bloodspot cards held by the South East Thames Regional Newborn Screening laboratory are stored in an archiving facility based in Wales. There has been a marked increase in the number of requests from clinicians regarding the release of newborn bloodspot cards from our holdings.

These requests are for newborn bloodspot screening cards to be sent for further testing/referral to another laboratory on the clinician's behalf. In order to manage this process more effectively the laboratory will recall cards on a weekly basis and cross charge the requesting clinician for the recall costs. This should significantly reduce the time taken to retrieve and process the cards.

Release of a newborn bloodspot screening card from the laboratory will require a completed consent form with details of the patient, signed consent from a parent/guardian and the referring clinician details. This completed consent form will then be used as the request form for billing and processing purposes. The test code of DBSRECALL will be added once the sample is retrieved and sent on for further testing.

This charge will be shown on reports as the test code DBS Recall NBS Release, with the following comment:

**"The SE Thames Newborn Screening Laboratory has forwarded the blood spot for further testing as requested. The report will be sent directly from the referral laboratory to the address supplied on the consent form. The NBS laboratory does not hold or receive copies of reports for additional testing. Please note, a carriage charge for retrieval of this sample has been applied."**

Please circulate this information to your teams and finance departments so that they are aware of this change to service.

All completed consent forms should be sent to the SE Thames generic email account: [gst-tr-SEThamesNBSLab@NHS.net](mailto:gst-tr-SEThamesNBSLab@NHS.net)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Carling", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Rachel Carling

Director of Newborn Screening and Clinical Lead, Biochemical Sciences