

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

**NEWBORN SCREEN TESTING**

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**Effective Date:** 3/08

**Policy No:** RL300.2

**Cross Referenced:** NJ St Dept of Health  
Referral Testing

**Origin:** Reference Lab

**Reviewed Date:**

**Authority:** Laboratory Director

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**PRINCIPLE**

To ensure that quality samples are collected for newborn screen.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Nurse will place order in hospital computer system. Order will drop to the Laboratory computer system and will read "PKU". Order will print out with time and date that it needs to be collected.
  - PKU's should always be done twenty four (24) hours after the infant's first feeding, or when the infant is greater than forty eight (48) hours in age.
  - The only time PKU's should be done before their assigned time is if the infant is being discharged early. (For example – if being transferred to another hospital).
2. Phlebotomist will take PKU order generated by the Laboratory computer to the Nursery and locate the official State of NJ – PKU form. (see attached example)
3. Examine the form carefully to be sure that all the nurse-required information is filled in. If not, find the nurse to have the form completed.
4. The Laboratory is required to fill in the date and time of collection. **It is very important that all information is completed. The State will reject the PKU if any information is missing or incorrect.**
5. Locate the room of the newborn. Properly identify the patient before performing the test.
6. After properly identifying the patient, proceed with the heelstick. *Please refer to heelstick procedure provided in the Phlebotomy Techniques Procedure Manual.*
7. Be sure to fill the five (5) circles completely with a gentle, constant flow.
8. Finish performing the test.
9. Return to the Laboratory and receive the sample in the Laboratory computer system.
10. Allow the PKU to dry thoroughly before processing.
11. Refer to the PKU Shipping Procedure to be sure that the sample card is over-nighted to the State laboratory.