

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB

HSS(MD) 16/2005

Chief Executives of HSS Boards
Directors of Public Health of HSS Boards
Directors of Nursing of HSS Boards
Chief Executives of HSS Trusts
Medical Directors of HSS Trusts for distribution to Consultant
Paediatricians and Obstetricians
Directors of Nursing, HSS Trusts for distribution to Midwives
and Health Visitors
Professor L Trimble
Mr Brian Sheridan



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
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Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 29 April 2005

Dear Colleagues

STANDARDS FOR NEWBORN BLOODSPOT SCREENING

The UK Newborn Screening Programme Centre was established in 2002 with the remit of assuring quality in newborn bloodspot screening on a UK-wide basis. It is a partnership between Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trusts, the Institute of Child Health and the Institute of Education.

A key priority for the Centre has been the establishment of UK-wide quality standards for the processes of the newborn bloodspot screening programme. Draft standards were piloted last year. Northern Ireland contributed data to this pilot which found that our programme complied with the majority of the standards. The standards have now been finalised and are posted on the Programme Centre's website www.newbornscreening-bloodspot.org.uk.

It is important that the bloodspot screening programme in Northern Ireland meets these national standards. A four Board group has been established to ensure that any changes needed are taken forward in a co-ordinated way. Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts should make sure that the blood spot screening programme in their area meets these UK standards.

Yours sincerely

**DR HENRIETTA CAMPBELL
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

cc: Chief Nursing Officer
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Midwifery

Health Visitors Association

