



Collecting the Blood Spots essentials



Remember

- Make sure the infant is between 24 and 72 hours old, but as close to 24 hours old as possible.
- Make sure the consent process has been completed for both collecting the blood spots the first time and collecting the blood spots again.
- Filling out the blood spot card means using a specimen label or filling out the blood spot card manually.
- Have your supplies ready.
- Verify the infant's identity. For more information about verifying identity, go to Insite and search "patient identity".

For more information

visit www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening

Staff Education

- Collecting
- Filling Out the Blood Spot Card
- Getting Great Blood Spots
- Drying & Transportation

Clinical Policy Suite

- Newborn Blood Spot Screening Policy
- Newborn Blood Spot Screening Sample Collection Procedure

You will need

- a clean surface to lay out your supplies
- a blood spot card that is not expired **Expires** **YYYY-MM-DD**
- disposable, powder-free gloves
- 70% isopropyl alcohol wipes
- Alberta Newborn Screening Program (ANSP) approved lancet, BD Quikheel™ or Tenderfoot®
- sharps box/puncture-proof container
- clean or sterile gauze pads
- a pen with **black ink**, if manually filling out the blood spot card



Checklist

- the blood spot card is on a clean surface
- the fold-over cover should cover the filter paper area at all times until the time of collection
- infant is warm and comforted
- hands are washed
- gloves are on
- infant's heel is cleaned with 70% isopropyl alcohol
- heel is air dried
- heel is held firmly
- heel is poked at the right place
- lancet is placed according to lancet manufacturer's instructions
- trigger is pressed all the way down
- lancet is disposed of properly



Poke the heel in the yellow shaded areas, as shown here



- heel is allowed to fall naturally
 - first drop of blood is wiped away with a clean or sterile gauze pad
 - heel is not squeezed or “milked”
 - fold-over cover is pulled back from the filter paper to expose the pre-printed circles
 - blood is only applied to the front of the card
 - circles are filled with blood, starting with the “Start Here” circle before moving on to the next circle
 - a clean or sterile gauze pad is applied to the heel
 - gloves and gauze are disposed of properly
 - hands are washed again
 - date and time of collection are recorded
 - your collector ID, collection location code recorded 
 - ensure the blood spot card is completely filled out (filling out the blood spot card means using a specimen label or filling out the blood spot card manually)
 - card is left in a clean place to dry for **at least three hours** without touching fold-over cover or another blood spot card 
 - fold-over cover is closed over the blood spots once they have dried
 - blood spot card is sent to be transported
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- document in the infant’s health record that the blood spots were collected or why the infant didn’t get the newborn blood spot screen
 - document in the infant’s health record any issues related to collecting the blood spots, such as whether the infant had multiple heel pokes or issues with bleeding
 - mark the “Collected” box in the “Blood Spot Screen” field and record the date and time on the notice of birth (if you have the notice of birth)

Blood Spot Screen

Not collected Collected

Date & time

yyyy-mmm-dd

