

Drying & Transportation essentials



Remember

- Handle the blood spot card (requisition) carefully – contaminants from gloved hands, alcohol, petroleum jelly, cleaning products or any other source can affect the accuracy of the screen results.
- The blood spot card needs to be received by the Alberta Newborn Screening Lab **within 72 hours** of collecting the blood spots.

For more information

visit www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening

Staff Education



Collecting

Clinical Policy Suite

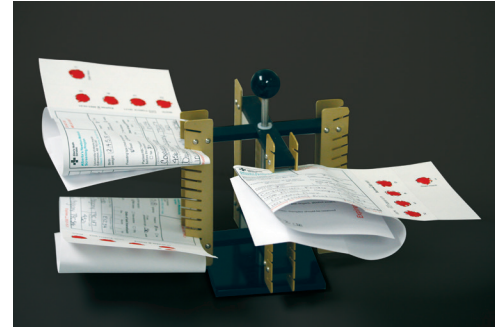
Newborn Blood Spot Screening Policy

Newborn Blood Spot Screening Sample Collection Procedure

Drying checklist

Dry the blood spot card

- horizontally and suspended without touching the fold-over cover or another blood spot card
- for at least three hours**
- away from direct sunlight
- on a commercial drying rack (pictured) or something else used for this purpose



NOTE: If the blood spots are not completely dry but need to be moved from the infant's home to a health centre, hospital, public health unit or lab, the blood spot card can be put into a box that separates the cards and then air dried at the new location. The fold-over cover should not be placed over the blood spots until they have dried for at least three hours. The box used to move the blood spot cards should be cleaned after each time it's emptied using a disinfectant according to your zone's practices.

Transportation checklist

Transportation details are up to your site, as long as the blood spot card is

- packaged and sealed in a paper envelope addressed to the Alberta Newborn Screening Lab with your facility's return address

University of Alberta Hospital
Department of Laboratory Medicine
Room 4B2.10
Alberta Newborn Screening
8440 – 112 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2B7

- sent to be **transported as soon as possible** after drying for at least three hours and the fold-over cover is closed over the blood spots
- packaged and sealed in a paper envelope (plastic bags, including biohazard bags, cause heat build-up that can affect the quality of the blood spots and should not be used)
- transported according to your local practices (don't use Canada Post)

This will allow every blood spot card to get to the Alberta Newborn Screening Lab within 72 hours and be analyzed accurately.

NOTE: If packaging multiple blood spot cards in one envelope rotate the blood spot cards so the blood spots from each card are on opposite ends and also so they fit better in the envelope.

