

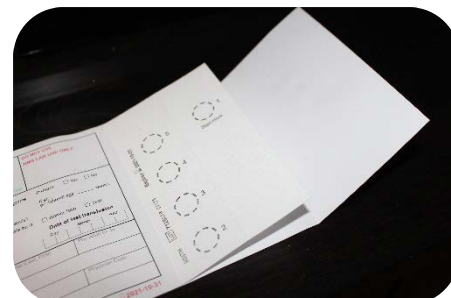
Alberta's NMS Program New Blood Spot Cards

March 2019

What is changing on the blood spot cards?

The blood spot card has the following changes:

- A **fold-over cover** over the filter paper and blood spots;
- **Five blood spots**, collectors need to start collecting at the 'Start Here' spot numbered one (1);
- **New clinical fields**
 - All feeding types of infant in the last 12 hours; and
 - If the infant had a blood transfusion; and
- **Order of fields** on the blood spot card, collectors would be advised to familiarize themselves with the card before beginning to use them.



Why is there a fold-over cover on the cards?

The fold-over cover provides protection from contamination before blood collection and during transporting before analysis. The fold-over cover should be covering the filter paper area at all times until time of collection.



What happens to the fold-over cover during collection of the sample?

During collection the fold-over cover attached to the blood spot card should be folded back, but not removed, exposing the filter paper and the pre-printed circles.



What happens to the fold-over cover during drying of the sample?

After collecting the sample the blood spot card can be dried on a commercial drying rack (pictured) or something else used for this purpose. The fold-over cover should not be placed over the bloods until they have dried for at least three (3) hours.



Why is there one blood spot by itself?

The perforated section containing circle 1 is removed by the NMS Lab for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) testing and sent to the Molecular Diagnostic Lab which is separate from the NMS Lab. Therefore, it is very important to always start from circle 1 before moving onto the next circles.

What if I have more questions?

If you have additional questions about sample collection, please contact the Newborn Metabolic Screening Program at nmsprogram@ahs.ca