



Enhancing the ANSP essentials

Remember

- Talk to parents about blood spot screening every time a collection is needed
- Make sure all the questions that a parent has about newborn blood spot screening are answered
- What can I do to screen **every infant – more safely and more carefully – every time?**
- Improving quality isn't always an easy thing to do. However, little changes can have large effects.
- Always ask yourself, "What can I do?"

For more information

visit www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening

Staff Education



Overview of the Alberta Newborn Screening Program

Clinical Policy Suite

Newborn Blood Spot Screening Policy

Quick steps checklist

Little changes can have large effects. Did you know that in the time it takes for two sips of coffee – about 7 seconds – we can take a quick step toward improving the Alberta Newborn Screening Program (ANSP) like

- making sure the blood spot card (requisition) is handled carefully and the fold-over cover, covers the filter paper area at all times until the time of collection – contaminants from gloved hands, alcohol, petroleum jelly, cleaning products or any other source can affect the accuracy of the screen results
- double checking you have all the necessary supplies ready before poking the heel
- making sure the heel poke happens at the birth facility before the infant goes home
- checking off on the notice of birth that the newborn blood spot screen was done
- double checking the dates and times of birth and collection are filled out correctly so the infant doesn't need to have the blood spots collected again
- making sure all fields are filled out on the blood spot card
- double checking the expiry date on the blood spot card in at least two places
- making sure the blood spot cards are stored away from heat, light and water

By dedicating 7 seconds, each of us can contribute to enhancing the ANSP.

Bigger steps checklist

If you have a few minutes to make a contribution try

- putting yourself in the position of a new parent – how would you feel if your baby needed to be poked again because of something completely preventable?
- checking your supply of the *Why does my baby need to be screened?* parent information sheet and newborn blood spot cards (these resources can be ordered by going to www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening)
- talking to your supervisor or manager about how your registration area is working to register all infants born in Alberta within 24 hours
- talking to your supervisor or manager about how your facility is working to collect infants' blood spots between 24 and 72 hours
- sending the ANSP photos or ideas of how you protect blood spot cards in your area

