



Getting it Right Every Time essentials



Remember

- Every infant not screened or not screened on time loses the chance for early treatment. If the infant is not treated early, they may have problems growing, have brain damage or even die.
- “On time” means 10 days from the birth of the infant to reporting of screen results.
- 10 days is easy if we meet all the time standards along the newborn blood spot screening pathway.

For more information

visit www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening

Staff Education

-  Overview of the Alberta Newborn Screening Program
-  Filling Out the Blood Spot Card
-  Collecting the Blood Spots
-  Getting Great Blood Spots
-  Drying & Transportation

Clinical Policy Suite

Newborn Blood Spot Screening Policy

On time checklist

- registration** by 24 hours old
- collection** between 24 and 72 hours old
- transportation** within 72 hours of collection
- analysis** within 48 hours of lab receipt
- reporting** within 96 hours of lab receipt
- follow-up** repeat collections as required
- follow-up** diagnostic tests ordered as soon as possible when needed

Getting it **RIGHT** checklist

Every blood spot card (requisition) should be

- Recorded correctly** 

all the infant’s information – especially the times and dates of birth and collection – written clearly

- In between 24-72 hours**

collect the blood spots when the infant is between 24 and 72 hours old but as close to 24 hours as possible

- Great quality blood spots** 

fully saturated, filling the circles, not layered, clotted or abraded

- Handled carefully** 

nothing should touch the filter paper except the infant’s blood

- Transported quickly** 

after at least 3 hours of drying time, send the blood spot card to the Alberta Newborn Screening Lab

