

Alberta's NMS Program Panel Expansion Overview

March 2019

What is changing?

Newborn blood spot screening in Alberta will be expanding in a staged approach, beginning April 1, 2019. Four new conditions will be added to the screening panel including: tyrosinemia type 1, classic galactosemia, severe combined immunodeficiency and sickle cell disease.

Where do I find more information about these conditions?

Condition specific information sheets can be found by visiting www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening and clicking on 'Information for Health Professionals' then 'Resources' and are under the 'Provider Info' tab.

The condition information sheets contain details regarding clinical presentation, pathogenicity and diagnostic testing for each of the conditions.



What are the blood spot card changes?

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.



When should I use the new blood spot cards?

New blood spot cards can be used **starting March 18, 2019**. All sites should ensure there are no old blood spot cards in their area after April 1, 2019. **After April 1, 2019 any collection done on an old blood spot card will cause a recollection for that infant.**

All old blood spot cards should be disposed of after March 18, 2019 and upon receiving your new blood spot cards .

How do I know what each field of the blood spot card means?

'Filling out the Blood Spot Card Essentials' staff education resource goes through each field and explains the importance. Special attention should be paid to accuracy and legibility when filling out each field as they may significantly affect the interpretation of the screen results. This can be found by visiting www.ahs.ca/newbornscreening and clicking on 'Information for Health Professionals' then 'Resources' and is under the 'Staff Education' tab.

Are there changes to the parent information sheets?

All parent information sheets will be updated with the new condition information and can be ordered starting March 15, 2019. These sheets should be used when talking with the parents during the informed consent process starting April 1, 2019.

What if I have more questions?

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

If you have questions about screened conditions, please contact the Genetic Counsellors at nmsgeniccounsellors@ahs.ca

