

Connecticut Newborn Screening

NEWBORN SCREENING

COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Procedure for Collecting Newborn Screening Blood-Spot Specimens

Collect Supplies

- sterile lancet (approx. 2.0 mm tip)
- sterile gauze pads
- gloves
- soft cloth
- NBS specimen card with demographics completed

Check the Expiration Date

The expiration date is located on the front of the card (Figure 3)

Specimens submitted on expired cards will be deemed unsatisfactory (UNSAT) and require the collection of another blood spot specimen.

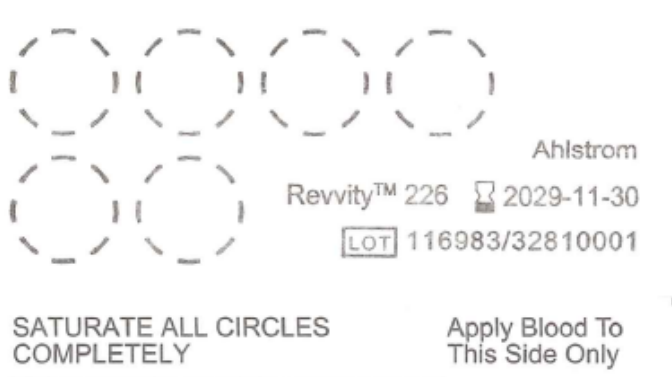


Figure 3

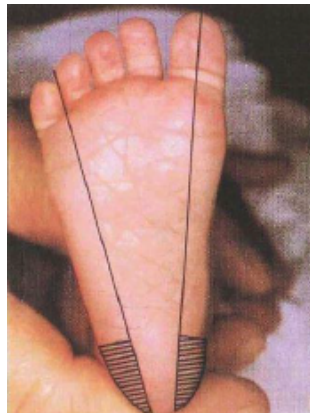


Figure 4

Demographics

Complete demographic information on front and back of card

1. Accession Number
2. Baby's date and time of birth
3. Mother's name
4. Birth weight
5. Estimated gestation age

These are essential data fields. Not including this information will delay testing.

Collection Steps

1	Hatched ///// areas (Figure 4) indicate safe areas for puncture.	8	Allow a large drop of blood to form.
2	Hold the infant's limb in a dependent position and gently massage the site.	9	Touch the filter paper circle on the front of the card (Figure 4) to the blood drop.
3	Warm the heel by applying a warm, moist towel for 3 minutes (not hotter than 42°C).	10	Allow the blood to soak through until the circle is fully saturated from front to back (blood should be visible on the back of card). Do not apply blood to the back of the card.
4	Clean the site with an alcohol swab (do not use Betadine/providone iodine).	11	<p>Do not layer blood (don't apply multiple drops to one circle).</p> <p>Do not touch the filter paper to the baby's skin or with your fingers.</p> <p>For very ill or very low birth weight babies, it is more important to saturate as many circles as possible rather than to put a small amount of blood in each circle.</p>
5	Allow the site to dry thoroughly before puncturing.		
6	Puncture heel with lancet.		
7	Wipe away the first drop of blood with sterile gauze.	12	Write the date and time of collection of the sample on the NBS Card

Completion of Data Entry and Drying

- Enter specimen collection information in the NBS data entry system and generate the NBS barcode label **
- For initial specimens, the barcode label will need to be printed twice. Place both barcode labels over the designated square on the NBS specimen card. **
- Allow the blood spots to dry at least 4 hours in a horizontal position. Do not stack specimens
- Dry in a climate controlled area, free from possible contamination

** This information is applicable to samples collected in the hospital setting**



Connecticut Newborn Screening Program
Connecticut Department of Public Health
(860) 920-6628 | dph.nbstracking@ct.gov
portal.ct.gov/newborn-screening-program