

Collection and Packaging of Newborn Screening Specimens



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The filter paper forms should be stored in a cool, dry place. Be sure to take note of the form expiration date printed on the filter paper margin below the circles. The filter paper forms are to be used on or before the expiration date. Destroy all outdated forms immediately and request a new supply from the Kentucky Public Health Laboratory. Order no more forms than can be used in 6 months.

- 1) Obtain a specimen from each infant between 24-48 hours of age, but before the infant leaves the hospital. Repeat screening is required for infants who receive transfusions. Specific requirements for repeat screening are included in 902 KAR 4:030.
- 2) It is recommended that specimens be collected prior to blood transfusion. The hemoglobinopathy test will be valid at this time.
- 3) All infants tested before 24 hours of life MUST be retested prior to reaching 48 hours of age for all tests.

Collection of Specimen

DO NOT DETACH FILTER PAPER FROM FORM. DO NOT ALTER FORM.

- 1) Cleanse the skin with an alcohol swab.
- 2) Wipe off excess alcohol with dry sterile gauze.
- 3) Puncture heel with sterile disposable lancet. Wipe away the first drop of blood with sterile gauze.
- 4) Gently touch the filter paper against a large drop of blood.
 - a) Blood spot should be large enough to soak through in ONE STEP.

ALWAYS APPLY BLOOD TO ONE SIDE ONLY. NEVER APPLY ADDITIONAL BLOOD TO A FILLED CIRCLE.



See the KY Department for Public Health Newborn Screening website for additional information.
<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/mch/ecd/newbornscreening.htm>

Packaging and Shipping

- 1) Allow blood specimen to AIR DRY THOROUGHLY, on level non-absorbent opensurface, such as a plastic-coated test tube rack for at least 3 hours.
- 2) DO NOT HEAT, STACK, OR ALLOW BLOOD SPOTS TO TOUCH OTHER SURFACES DURING DRYING. Fold over flap after specimen is dry.
- 3) Specimens must be mailed within 24 hours of collection, or on the next business day if collected over the weekend or holiday.
- 4) List specific disorder(s) only and specify the test(s) if selective repeat testing is indicated.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL INFORMATION BE THOROUGHLY COMPLETED

To order Newborn Screening Collection Cards call (502)564-4446 ext: 4433