

Newborn Bloodspot Screening Specimen Collection Steps

1. Check expiration date on card. Fill out the specimen card completely, accurately, and legibly. Ensure the follow up provider/clinic is specified. Weight should be in grams.
2. Gather supplies: gloves, specimen card, alcohol wipe, gauze, heel warmer, newborn bloodspot screening specific puncture device appropriate for gestational age/weight.



The image shows a specimen card for newborn bloodspot screening. It includes fields for specimen number, baby's name, birth date, sex, and various medical history questions. There is a barcode and a section for the provider's information.

3. Pre-collection: dress baby warmly, massage leg towards the toes, dangle leg, keep baby upright, swaddle baby with foot exposed.
4. Positioning: if possible, have baby upright or head elevated during collection. Mother may breastfeed during collection.
5. Cleanse site with alcohol swab and let air dry.
6. Puncture heel and wipe away the first drop of blood.



Hatched area indicates safe area for puncture site.

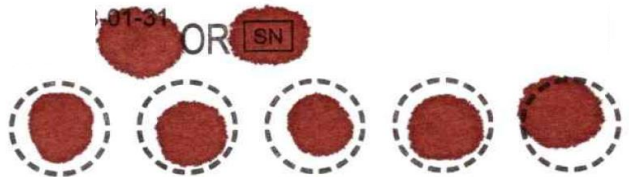
7. Allow **one** large drop of blood to collect and drop onto filter paper to fill the circle and saturate the filter paper evenly. **Only one drop of blood should be applied to each circle.**
8. Gently apply and release pressure around the heel to promote blood flow (without squeezing or milking right at the puncture site). Ensure that the baby's heel doesn't touch the filter paper when applying the blood.



9. Repeat for each circle and check for even saturation through the back of the card. Do not apply more than one blood drop per circle. You may apply 2-3 additional drops outside of the circles on the filter paper if needed.
10. Use gauze to stop the blood flow and provide care per facility guidelines.
11. Lay specimen flat to dry for 3-4 hours, until completely dry. After the specimen is dry, place protective cover over the specimen and ship by express mail or courier as soon as possible.



Bloodspot specimen examples:

Front  Back 	✓ Accepted: The circles are filled with one drop of blood in each one and there is even saturation through the card. This is an acceptable specimen.
Front  Back 	✓ Accepted: There is one drop of blood in each circle and there is good saturation through the card. The blood drop did not completely fill the circle so two additional drops of blood were added to the filter paper outside of the circles. This is an acceptable specimen.
Front  Back 	✗ Insufficient quantity: There is not enough blood to complete all the screening tests. This specimen is unsatisfactory.
Front  Back 	✗ Uneven saturation: The blood did not saturate all the way through the card and multiple drops were applied to each circle. Only one drop of blood can be applied to each circle. The bloodspots need to look the same on the front and the back of the card. This specimen is unsatisfactory.

Collection Tips:

- You may apply 2-3 additional drops outside of the circles on the filter paper if needed.
- You can use either side of the filter paper to fill, but only fill from one side. Do not fill both sides of the filter paper.
- Do not apply blood drops on top of each other or let them connect-apply one drop per circle.
- If the blood flow is slow, re-stick heel in a different location.

For more information or to request training please reach out to Jacqui.Umstead2@oha.oregon.gov