

Alternative Blood Spot Collection Method Guidelines

Blood spot collection directly from an infant's heel is the recommended best practice.

Collecting blood spot specimens from other sources of blood or through alternative collection methods frequently leads to unsatisfactory specimens and can delay essential diagnosis and interventions. The Kansas Newborn Screening Program highly discourages the routine use of any of the following alternative collection methods.

For *infrequent situations* when blood spot collection from the heel is not possible, follow the guidelines below to reduce the risk of collecting a poor-quality specimen:

Alternative Sources of Blood

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Venous Blood	Fingers – too shallow & can damage the bone
Arterial Blood	Ear lobes – may cause excessive bleeding
Cleared and Un-Heparinized intravenous lines (should not have had contact with <i>any</i> anti-coagulants)	Uncleared intravenous lines
	Center of the foot or heel
Umbilical Catheter	Umbilical Cord

Alternative Collection Methods

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Needle puncture of a vein w/ direct drip to collection card	Capillary Tubes
Syringe collection from an IV-line, central line, UAC, or UVC	

Tips and Reminders:

- Avoid drawing from an extremity where an IV is in place.
- Flush lines before collecting.
- Never use any collection instruments that have or have had contact with anti-coagulants. Any exposure of the specimen to anti-coagulants can result in false positive screening.
- Never draw a specimen in a collection tube and then transfer to a collection card.
- Have materials ready to transfer the sample as quickly as possible before clotting occurs.
- If there is enough sample, waste a couple drops right before spotting the card to dislodge clots that may have formed.
- Remove needle from syringe first and spot the card with the naked syringe.
- Slowly push blood out from the syringe to form a single large drop, just as if collected from the heel.
- **DO NOT ALLOW ANY COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS TO TOUCH THE FILTER PAPER**