



## Blood Sample Collection and Mailing Procedures

- The demographic information on the kit should be completed **prior** to specimen collection to allow for verification of patient identification.
- Assure that date/time of birth, date/time of specimen collection, baby's weight and transfusion status are recorded on the newborn screening kit.
- If possible hydrate the baby for better blood flow.
- Warm the infant's heel regardless of environmental temperature.
- Follow standard precautions guidelines.
- Select puncture site (medial or lateral walking surface of the heel).
- Wipe site with alcohol and allow to air dry to prevent contamination.
- Wipe off the first drop of blood, as it may contain tissue fluids and dilute the specimen.
- Allow a large drop of blood to form and touch the blood drop to the filter paper.
- If blood flow decreases, do not "milk" or squeeze the foot. If necessary, repeat the heel stick.
- Do not touch the filter paper or blood spots, as contamination may occur.
- Air dry specimen for a minimum of three hours on a clean, dry surface in a horizontal position.
- Retain the "Sender's Copy" of the demographic information for your records.
- Fold the protective flap (attached to back of card) to cover blood spot.
- Check one more time for the quality of the blood spots; specimens will be rejected if they do not meet the quality set forth by the Ohio Department of Health. Samples can be considered unsatisfactory and rejected for the following reasons:
  - Insufficient Quantity
  - Appears Scratched or abraded
  - Not dried prior to mailing
  - Supersaturated
  - Diluted, discolored, or contaminated
  - Exhibits serum rings
  - Clotted or layered
  - No blood
  - Received 10 days after sample draw
- Once the blood spots have been checked to be in good quality, place the kit in an envelope with the appropriate label for the overnight delivery service provided by **Ohio Department of Health**.
- Samples should be mailed on a daily basis. Do not batch several days' worth of kits.
- Do **not** place kits in plastic once blood is applied to the filter paper as it can affect test results.