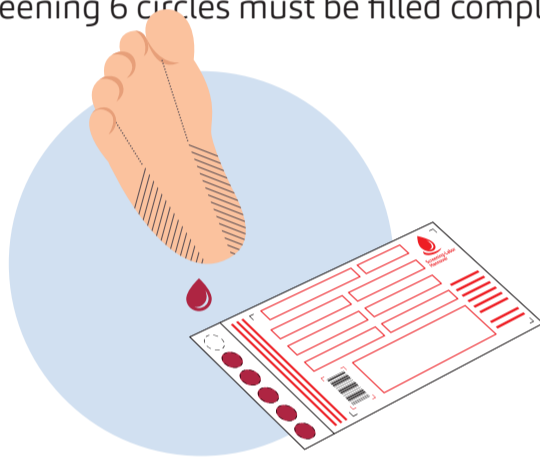


Guideline

1 a Blood collection from the heel (newborns)

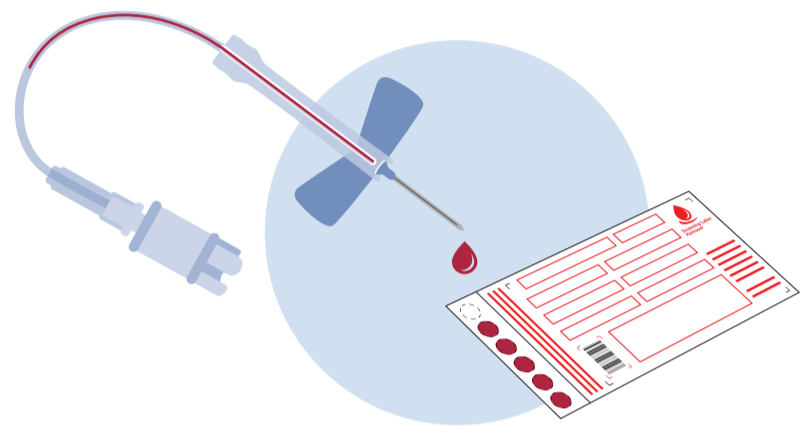
- Clean the heel and disinfect with alcohol or isopropanol, if necessary. Do not use any disinfectant.
- If required, massage or warm the heel, use commercially available lancing devices (safety lancets with a wide cutting surface).
- Puncture the heel laterally and wipe off the first drop of blood with a clean swab.
- Apply blood onto the pre-printed filter paper circles, without touching the card with the heel.
- Fill 1–6 circles completely, depending on the analysis requested.
- For newborn screening 6 circles must be filled completely.




Caution: Apply a large drop of blood onto each circle to ensure the circles are filled as completely as possible. The blood must soak through the card so that blood spots look almost equal on both sides. Apply blood onto the card from one direction only. Avoid multiple blood applications (overloading). Do not use umbilical cord blood!

1 b Alternativ: Venous blood collection


Only qualified medical professionals may carry out venous blood collection. Hygienic and medical instructions must be strictly adhered to. Apply blood directly from the collection system onto the dried blood card or use a pipette to transfer it from the collection tube. Do not use any additives (EDTA, heparin, etc.).



Front

- ✓  blood applied
- ✗  card packed/ dispatched wet
- ✗  too little blood
- ✗  blood did not soak through
- ✗  blood applied too thickly (clotted)

Back

- 
- 

2 Drying

Allow to dry at room temperature for at least 2–4 hours by placing the card upright/inclined against an object. Do not dry the card with a radiator, a hairdryer or with exposure to sunlight!



3 Preparation for shipment

- Fill out data fields on dried blood card completely.
- Check parental consent for valid signatures. This remains in the patient's medical record and a copy given to parents.
- Put the dried blood card with the pasted on barcode and, if required, laboratory referral letter in an envelope, stamp sufficiently and send as soon as possible.
- Avoid mailboxes exposed to strong sunlight or cold, consider date and time of postal collection. Sending from a post officer or centre is recommended.

