

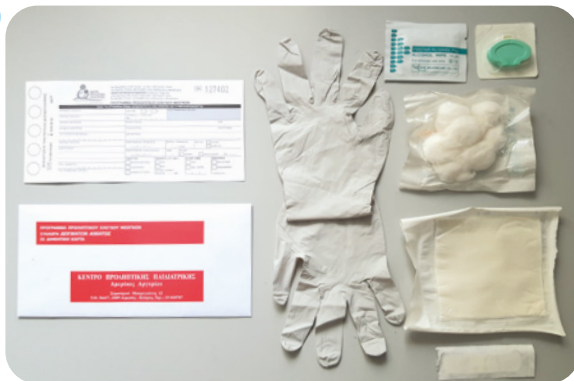
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NEONATAL BLOOD COLLECTION ON ABSORBENT PAPER

Instructions to Paediatricians

The Neonatal Screening Program is offered by The Center for Preventive Paediatrics "Americos Argyriou" so as to identify and diagnose infants with congenital hypothyroidism or phenylketonuria with the scope of placing them on therapy by 3 weeks of age. Blood should be collected on the card from babies that have completed 48 hours of life. The card is a blood sampling device designed for the collection, transport and storage of blood, comprised of a piece of absorbent paper attached to a form for the neonate's demographic and medical information.

1



1.1. Gather all necessary material:

The blood collection card and envelope, gloves, heel incision device (single use), sterile alcohol wipe, sterile gauze pad, cotton pad and plaster

1.2. Complete **all** the information requested on the card, in legible handwriting

IMPORTANT:

- Do not use the card if it appears damaged (i.e. damp, dirty, cut, torn)
- Avoid touching the circles on the sampling area before or after blood collection
- Use gloves during blood collection
- Do not use any expired material

2



A puncture site is safe within the shaded area shown

3



Warm the heel by hand to increase the blood flow during sampling

4



4.1. To increase blood flow, lower the baby's leg below heart level

4.2. Clean the heel with alcohol

4.3. Allow the heel to dry

IMPORTANT: Failure to allow the alcohol to dry may affect the screening results

5



5.1. Puncture the heel using the sterile heel incision device (a standard incision of 1 mm depth and 2.5 mm width given by the device should allow for sufficient blood flow)

5.2. Wipe away the first drop of blood that forms with the sterile gauze (initial drop contains tissue fluids which may dilute the sample)

5.3. Wait for the next LARGE drop to form

6



6.1. Lightly touch the sampling area of the card on the drop, allowing the blood to soak through to the other side completely filling the circle. VERY GENTLE intermittent pressure can be added to the heel to further enhance blood flow. Use only one side of the card

6.2. Fill the remaining circles with successive blood drops as described in steps 5.3 and 6.1

IMPORTANT:

- Do not add multiple drops to a single circle to fill the area as this could affect the screening results
- Do not allow the baby's skin to touch the card during sampling

7



Attend to the puncture site

8

Allow the blood spots to air dry at room temperature between 18°C - 25°C for at least 3 hours on a level, open and non-absorbent surface, away from direct sunlight or other heat sources

9



Once the blood spots have completely dried, place the card in the special envelope provided for the Neonatal Screening Program and send it immediately to The Center for Preventive Paediatrics "Americos Argyriou", either by hand or via courier service

IMPORTANT: Multiple cards packed into a single envelope should be rotated by 180° to one another so as to avoid potential cross-contamination

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