







## Newborn Screening: Specimen Handling and Collection Guidelines

### Before collection:

- Check newborn screening card to ensure it is not expired.
- Complete ALL required information. Do not contaminate filter paper circles by allowing the circles to come in contact with spillage or by touching before or after blood collection.

### Specimen Collection Guidelines:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hatched area indicates safe areas for puncture site.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warm site with soft cloth, moistened with warm water up to 41° C for three to five minutes.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cleanse site with alcohol prep. Wipe DRY with sterile gauze pad.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Puncture heel. Wipe away first blood drop with sterile gauze pad. Allow another LARGE blood drop to form.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightly touch filter paper to LARGE blood drop. Allow blood to soak through and completely fill circle with SINGLE application to LARGE blood drop.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill remaining circles in the same manner with successive blood drops.</li> </ul>

### Specimen Handling Guidelines:

- Air dry at room temperature for 2-4 hours, specimen side up, on a flat surface before transporting.
- DO NOT transport card in a plastic container. Use envelope provided with card.
- Specimen must be sent to the state lab within 24 hours of collection.