

# Newborn Bloodspot Screening (NBS) Sample Collection Guidance for Paediatric Units

December 2020

## Who should be offered newborn bloodspot screening?



**All newborn babies at 5 days of age.**

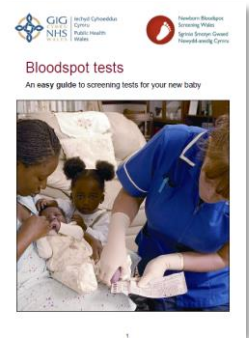
Babies up to one year of age (if they have not had UK newborn bloodspot screening).



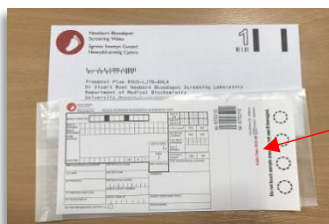
## Parents need information to give informed consent



This leaflet explains the conditions screened for and how the sample is taken – discuss with parents.



## Taking the newborn bloodspot screening sample



Check the **expiry date** on the front of the card.

Fill in the card completely.

**Cards without an NHS number will need to be repeated.**



Help the parents make the baby feel warm and comfortable.

Clean heel with plain water and dry with cotton wool/gauze.

Allow foot to hang down to maximise blood flow to heel.

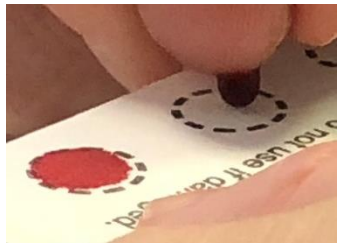
Obtain the sample using an age-appropriate automated incision device.



Puncture sites shaded



# Applying blood to the NBS card – technique matters



**Wait for a large hanging drop of blood to form.** Allow the blood to **drop** onto the circle. The heel should **not** touch the card.

**Only one large drop per circle.**

**Complete the process for all four circles.**



Allow bloodspots to **air dry** before placing in the glassine envelope and NBSW prepaid envelope.

**Post** without delay to the Newborn Screening Laboratory.

**Document** consent and sample collection.

**Inform** parents they will receive the results within six weeks of sample collection.



## GOOD QUALITY SAMPLE



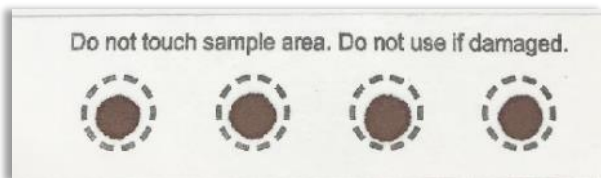
Front



Back

## POOR QUALITY SAMPLES

**These will need to be repeated**



Insufficient



Multi-spotted



Further information is available in the NBSW Programme Handbook which can be accessed via the NBSW website

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh