



Newborn Bloodspot
Screening Wales

Sgrinio Smotyn Gwaed
Newydd-anedig Cymru

Overview of Programme Policies

Policy 1 - Completeness of Offer and Coverage

Every newborn baby whose usual place of residence is Wales will be offered bloodspot screening at day 5-8 of life.

Every infant who becomes resident in Wales, up to the age of one year, will be offered bloodspot screening for relevant conditions (unless there is evidence that they have had appropriate screening in the UK already, or that it has been declined in the UK).

Policy 2 - Informed Consent

A person with parental responsibility must receive sufficient information and have opportunity to ask questions such that they are able to give informed consent for bloodspot screening.

A person with parental responsibility must receive sufficient information and the opportunity to decline consent to be contacted for future research.

Policy 3 - Timely Sample Collection

The newborn bloodspot sample should be taken on day 5 of life (counting day of birth as day 0) irrespective of current medical

condition, prematurity or feeding status. If it is not possible to take the sample on day 5, it must be taken between day 5 and day 8 of life.

Policy 4 - Quality of Bloodspot Sample and Information on the Card

The bloodspot sample must be of good quality to maximise the accuracy of the screening test and to prevent the need for an avoidable repeat sample.

A good quality bloodspot sample is taken at the correct time, contains sufficient blood and has not been contaminated. The card must state the baby's NHS number and have complete and accurate demographic information recorded. The screening card must arrive in the laboratory within 4 working days of the sample being taken.

Policy 5 - Timely Receipt of a Sample in the Newborn Screening Laboratory

The newborn bloodspot sample must be received in the laboratory within 4 working days of being taken. To facilitate this, the sample should be sent to the Wales Newborn Screening Laboratory within 24 hours of being taken, by first class post using a prepaid envelope.

Policy 6 - Timely Processing of Bloodspot Cards

Bloodspot cards must be analysed and the results reported in a timely manner, in order to maximise the opportunity for prompt and appropriate intervention for babies who are suspected of having one of the conditions screened for.