

PROCEDURE FOR: Blood Drawing: Capillary

- POLICY:**
1. Universal precautions will be used when blood drawing is performed.
 2. Straight needles (25 gauge or otherwise) should not be used for sampling because there is no way of controlling puncture pressure or depth.
 3. The heel is the preferred site for capillary sampling. Toe sticks and finger sticks should be avoided because the distance between the skin and bone is thin. Bone damage and infection may complicate toe or finger sticks.
 4. Supportive measures will be instituted to minimize pain during and after procedure until infant returns to baseline.
 5. Blood deficits are to be kept:
 - a. For all infants with birth weights <1000 grams until daily labs are no longer required.
 - b. For infants with central lines (UAC, PAL, UVC or Broviac) when the need for blood sampling is a primary indication for the catheter.
 - c. For any critically ill infant irrespective of weight and type of venous or arterial access.

EQUIPMENT: Heel warmer or moist warm wrap
Clean 2x2 gauze
Alcohol wipe
Lancet
Appropriate tubes for lab studies
Gloves
Labels
Lab requisitions

PROCEDURE:

- | <u>ACTION</u> | <u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u> |
|--|---|
| 1. Verify identity of infant and labs to be drawn. | |
| 2. Warm area chosen for blood drawing. | 2. Use moist warm wrap or heel warmer and warm for about 5 minutes. |
| 3. Wipe area chosen with alcohol (See Appendix A). Allow alcohol to dry. | |
| 4. Pierce skin with lancet. | |
| 5. Wipe first drop of blood with 2x2. | 5. First drop may be contaminated with tissue fluid. |
| 6. Draw specimen into appropriate tubes. | 6. Gently milk from knee to foot to facilitate blood flow. |

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7. Apply pressure to puncture site with 2x2 gauze and wrap heel with gauze until bleeding stops.
7. Band-Aids should be avoided due to the strength of the adhesive and skin integrity should be assessed prior to use. If a Band-Aid is used, it should be removed within 24 hours of applying.
8. At the bedside, label tubes and attach to completed lab requisitions.
8. All specimens are to be placed in plastic bag for transport to the lab.
9. Record labs drawn and blood volume (when appropriate) on Flowsheet.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

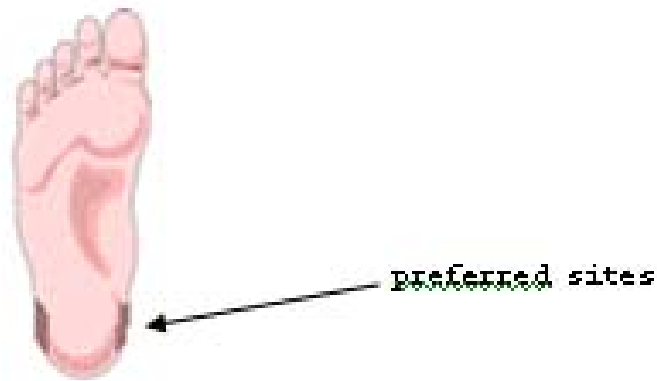
EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/84

REVISION DATES: 2/87, 7/89, 11/89, 5/90, 11/91, 3/92, 12/92, 2/00, 11/00, 5/04, 12/08

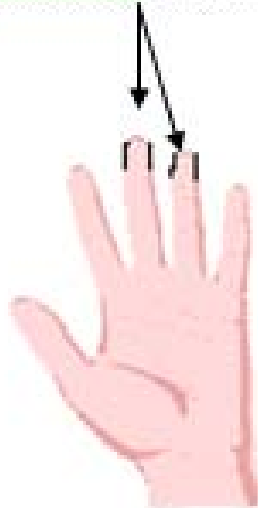
REVIEWED DATES: 11/07

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APPENDIX A



Preferred fingers



Use only shaded areas when access to heel limited by
IV placement or when necrotated.