

HOW TO GUIDE

MAHEC

Clinical Staff/Phlebotomists

CAPILLARY BLOOD SAMPLING

This guide is intended to be used as a refresher on best practices surrounding capillary blood sampling.

A. Advantages

Capillary blood sampling is advantageous for many reasons:

1. Only a small amount of blood is required. (In comparison to a venous blood draw)
2. Easily obtained.
3. Results are available quickly, enabling providers to make treatment decisions faster.

B. Skin Prep

Lead:

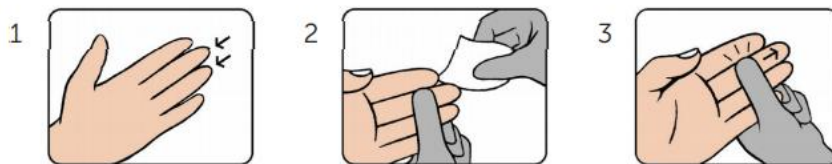
1. Wash the patient's hands with **soap and water only**; using alcohol or disinfectant can interfere with the test results.
2. Allow skin to dry completely before performing test.
3. Do not allow skin to come into contact with any objects after it has been cleansed.

All other finger stick tests:

1. Cleanse finger with alcohol pad, allow to dry completely.

C. Procedure

1. Use the middle or ring finger for sampling. Avoid fingers with rings on.
2. Cleanse finger with antiseptic or soap/water and allow to dry.
3. Using your thumb, lightly press the finger from the top of the knuckle towards fingertip to stimulate blood flow.



4. Sample at the side of the fingertip for best blood flow and comfort.
5. Press lightly towards fingertip and puncture using a lancet.
6. Wipe away the first 3 drops of blood. Press lightly towards fingertip until another drop of blood appears.
7. Fill micro cuvette or pipette (for lead) completely in one step. It is important that there are no air bubbles and that the micro cuvette is completely full. If unable to get the sample in one step, obtain another cuvette/pipette and obtain a new sample.

