

Blood Filter Card Collection Guidelines for Lead & Hemoglobin Screens

Supplies Needed:

- Completed requisition
- Exam Gloves
- Blood filter paper card
- Soap and water
- Alcohol prep pad
- Sterile gauze
- Sterile lancet
- Bandage

Preparation:

1. Complete the Lead and Hemoglobin test requisition with **ALL** required information including the collection date/time and initials of the collector.
2. Label the filter paper card by writing the patient's full name, second identifier (example: medical record number or date of birth), collection date/time and the initials of the collector.
3. Have the collector wash the patient's hands with soap and water.
4. Before blood collection, **Check the "Use By" date** on the back of the card.

Collection:

1. Open the filter paper card to expose the testing circles. Place the card on a clean, flat surface. Fold front flap completely over the back, then fold back flap in half to resemble an accordion style fold (see fig. 1). **Do not touch the filter paper surface of the sample card.**
2. While holding the patient's hand, isolate the finger to be punctured (3rd or 4th finger is recommended). Use alcohol prep pad to rinse and disinfect the area.
3. Wipe the patient's finger with sterile gauze to dry thoroughly.
4. Puncture prepared fingertip with lancet. The puncture should be made perpendicular to the fingertip.
5. Gently squeeze the finger for first drop of blood, then wipe off the drop with sterile gauze. This drop is contaminated with excess tissue fluid.
6. Hold the exposed filter paper card in one hand and continue to gently squeeze the finger to allow one large drop of blood to accumulate. **Do not use strong repetitive pressure.**
7. Continue to gently squeeze the finger to allow large drops of blood to accumulate.
8. Aim one large blood drop over the center of the circle (fig. 2) allowing it to fall freely onto one of the circles of the filter paper card. **DO NOT ALLOW THE FINGER TO TOUCH THE FILTER PAPER. Do not put a 2nd drop of blood on top of the 1st drop.**
9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for the next circle to fill a minimum of two circles for lead or hemoglobin screening. Fill a third acceptable circle if screening for both lead and hemoglobin.
10. The circles are provided as a guide for the size of the sample. The blood drops must be soaked evenly through to the back of the filter paper.

After Collection:

1. With sterile gauze, apply pressure until bleeding has stopped. Apply a bandage around the finger covering the puncture site. Instruct parent/guardian to remove bandage within 15-30 minutes. **Do not place bandages on patient's fingers less than 2 years old.**
2. Stand the opened sample card upright on the two folds "W" and allow to fully dry for at least 10 minutes before sending to the laboratory (see fig. 3).
3. After the spots have fully dried, unfold card and tuck cover in the front flap of the card.

Sending the Specimen:

1. **Sending by courier:** Place the card in the biohazard bag and put the completed requisition in the pocket on the outside of the biohazard bag.
2. **Sending by mail:** Place the card in the small plastic zip-lock bag and put the bag into the envelope along with the completed test requisition. Multiple requisitions and samples may be placed in a single envelope.

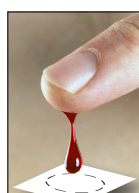
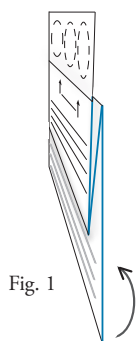


Fig. 2

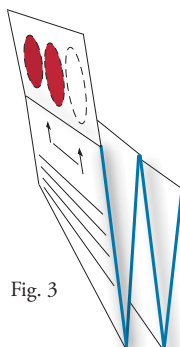
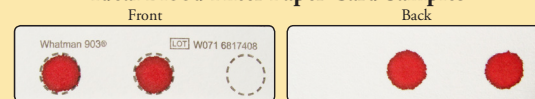


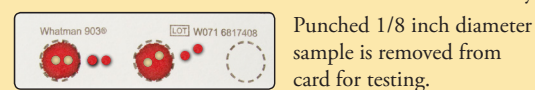
Fig. 3

Ideal Blood Filter Paper Card Samples



- 2 blood circles provide an ideal sample for analysis.
- The free falling drop(s) will soak through to the back side of the filter paper.

Note: The front and back of each circle is saturated evenly.



Punched 1/8 inch diameter sample is removed from card for testing.

Acceptable Blood Filter Paper Card Samples



Dashed circles are only a guide for sample size - off-center drop is acceptable



Barely acceptable sample - minimum drop size is 1/3 inch in diameter

Unacceptable Blood Filter Paper Card Samples



Insufficient Sample:
The blood drop is not of adequate size.



Blood Wiped on Filter Card - Non Uniform Sample:
The filter paper was touched by the finger surface. Blood did not soak through to the back of paper and multiple blood drops were applied.



Blood from other source:
A capillary tube or other device was used to transfer the sample. The drops do not soak through to the back side of the filter paper and multiple blood drops were applied.