

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

HEELSTICKS

=====

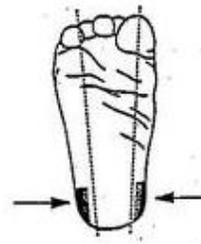
Effective Date: January, 2008
Cross Referenced:
Reviewed Date: 04/13/2012
Revised Date: 01/12

Policy No: PHLEB 100.03
Origin: Phlebotomy
Authority: Laboratory Director
Page: 1 of 1

PRINCIPLE: To properly obtain quality samples from an infant in a timely manner. This is the preferred method that should be used on the infant's first two months of life.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Antiseptic swabs, 70% isopropanol
2. Gauze pads, 2 X 2"
3. One unopened Tenderfoot heelstick device.
4. Blood collection containers and/or newborn screening filter.



PROCEDURE:

1. Before beginning procedure, be sure to properly identify the patient.
2. Leaving the infant in the bassinet, position the infant on their stomach whenever possible.
3. Clean the area of the heel that is to be used. (See Diagram). The so called "safe zone" is marked by a line extending posteriorly from a point between the fourth and fifth toes to the lateral aspect of the heel. Also a line extending posteriorly from the middle of the great toe running parallel to the medial aspect of the heel.
4. Allow the heel to air dry. Do not touch the incision site or allow it to come in contact with any other non-sterile surface.
5. Open the Tenderfoot heelstick device and remove it from the package. Remove the safety clip. At this time be sure not to push the trigger or touch the blade slot. Place the device flush against the heel so that its center point is vertically aligned with the incision site. Depress the trigger. The incision will be made at this time.
6. Remove the device from the infant's heel. Using a sterile piece of gauze gently wipe the first drop of blood that appears away from the site.
7. Begin to fill the collection container, filter paper or capillary tube to the required volume. After the desired amount is collected gently press a clean sterile gauze on the site until the bleeding has stopped. Be careful to not put the Band-Aid too tightly on the skin because it is tender.
8. Dispose of the Tenderfoot in the small red SHARPS on the phlebotomy tray or in the wall mounted SHARPS in each patient's room.