

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL
LAB POLICY FOR NEONATAL BLOOD COLLECTION**

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PURPOSE: It is HRMC lab policy to obtain blood specimens from neonates up to two months via a heelstick procedure (see heelstick procedure). No venipunctures should be performed on patients less than 2 months unless approved by the attending physician. If the quantity to blood warrants a venipuncture, contact the ordering physician to inform him or her that a venipuncture will need to be performed. The exception to this rule is a neonatal blood culture which warrants a venous draw.

Tests that can be performed on an infant heelstick:

1. CBC, Retic
2. Glucose
3. Bilirubin (Protect from Light)
4. Electrolytes (Refrain from specimens being hemolysed)

Tests that can be performed by a venipuncture:

Generally, any test can be performed using pediatric tubes, including blood cultures.