

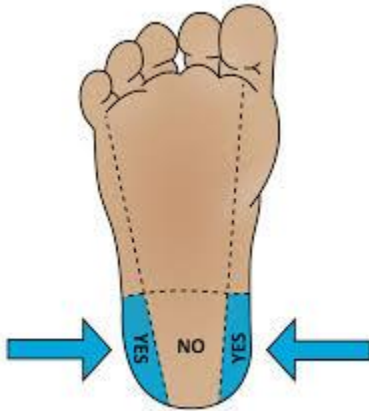
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| POLICY TITLE: GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING BLOOD BY HEEL PUNCTURE IN NEWBORNS | |
| DEPARTMENT: CLINICAL LABORATORY | |
| AREA: SPECIMEN MANAGEMENT | ORIGINATION DATE: 5/1991 |
| Page 1 of 1 | DATE LAST REVISED/REVIEWED: 09/29/2022 |
| PROCEDURE NUMBER: COLL 5. 5. 30 | |

HEEL PUNCTURE IN NEWBORNS

POLICY:

Heel punctures done to obtain blood samples in newborn infants should be made using care to avoid inflicting unnecessary injury.

1. Heel punctures must be made in the most medial and lateral portion of the plantar surface of the heel.



2. Depth of the puncture must not exceed 2 mm in depth.
3. Punctures must not be done in areas where the calcaneus is present beneath the skin.
4. Previous puncture sites must be avoided.
5. The posterior curvature of the heel is a particularly dangerous site for puncture. In this area, the calcaneus often is just beneath the skin.

Samples collected into micro-collection tubes must also be properly labeled.