

# PoCT Information Sheet

## Capillary Collection Technique 1

### Overview

Collecting a good quality capillary blood sample is integral to ensuring that results are both precise and accurate. Prior to undertaking any point of care testing you should be familiar with the guidelines below.

### Limitations

There are instances when capillary blood collection may be inappropriate. For example: Patients who are severely dehydrated; Individuals with poor circulation; Tests that require large volumes of blood (e.g. > 500 µL). It is important to understand that there are differences between some analytes in capillary blood as compared to venous or arterial blood specimens. For example, glucose, potassium, total protein, and calcium have been reported to show statistically and/or clinically important differences. With the exception of glucose, the concentration of these analytes is lower in capillary blood. Similarly, when undertaking an INR test where prothrombin (clotting) time is measured there is increased imprecision due to pre-analytical factors such as the length of time it takes to collect the sample.

### Materials Required

- Appropriate collection device for test
- Lancet
- Alcohol wipe
- Device's QRG for testing

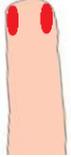
### Preparation

Use gloves, gowns, eye protection, and other personal protective equipment. Discard after use by disposing in sharps and biohazard disposal containers according to the procedures of your facility.

### Collection Guidelines

Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) recommends heel-prick for infants less than one year of age (1.5 mm is recommended depth). For individuals older than one year, finger-prick is the recommended method. When choosing site:-

- Ensure site is clean and thoroughly air dried before puncture
- Ensure hand or heel is warm with good blood flow
- Wipe away first drop of blood (**EXCEPT WHEN TESTING INR**)
- Never milk the finger
- Fill collection device in one continuous process to ensure a consistent volume is collected, without air bubbles.

		
For hands, <b>ONLY</b> use middle and ring finger for collection	Use plantar surface on side of finger, avoid any scarred or caloused areas	Recommended site is the lateral (outside) or medial (inside) plantar surface of the heel*

**\*Caution:** In small or premature infants, the heel bone (calcaneus) may be no more than 2.0 mm beneath the skin surface and no more than half this distance at the posterior curvature of the heel.