Newborn bloodspot screening test

All babies

At birth:
- Complete screening card
  - Identification of baby
  - Identification of mother
  - Baby’s UR number
  - Birth weight
  - Gestation

Timing:
- Collect sample at 48–72 hours of age
- If discharged from hospital before 48 hours of age:
  - Discuss option for collection
  (e.g. by home visiting midwife, child health nurse)

Feeding—note on card:
- Type, date and time of first milk feed
- If not feeding (NBM)
- If baby fed within last half hour

Sampling technique:
- Collect from most medial or lateral aspect on plantar surface of heel
- Pain management
  - Breastfeed/EBM during or immediately prior
  - Skin to skin with mother
  - Face to face contact
  - Swaddling
  - Non-nutritive sucking
  - Administer sucrose 24% orally [refer to QCG: NeoMedQ Sucrose]

Feeding—note on card:

Completion:
- Add relevant clinical information
- Complete baby’s personal health record (red book)
- Follow local procedures for dispatching screening card to laboratory

Flowchart: F21.4-3-V1-R26

Indication | Time of repeat
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Poor sample |
- Incomplete/poorly applied | As soon as possible

Baby received 10% glucose infusion > 6 hours | 48–72 hours after ceasing infusion

Perinatal steroids (multiple doses) | 7 days of age

Baby < 1500 g BW
- Monochorionic multiple birth
  (e.g. same sex twin) | 14 days of age

Blood transfusion in 1st 48–72 hours |
- Collect sample prior | 48 hours after transfusion and 14 days later

TPN |
- 24 hours after starting/resuming milk feeds

Baby < 1000 g BW | 28 days of age (third sample/second repeat)

BW: birth weight; QCG: Queensland Clinical Guidelines; TPN: total parenteral nutrition; UR: unit record; <: less than;
>: greater than; ≥: greater than or equal to

Queensland Clinical Guideline. Newborn assessment (routine). Flowchart: F21.4-3-V1-R26