

## **PROTOCOL FOR CONDUCTING METABOLIC SCREEN**

### **In NICU:-**

1. All babies who have been on enteral feeds for more than 36 hours
2. Babies who have been on full enteral feeds for less than 36 hours, for whom transfusion is planned.

In these babies Guthrie card test is repeated 6 weeks after the transfusion.

### **In POSTNATAL WARD:-**

Guthrie card test is done at or beyond 36 hours of age.

#### **Procedure:-**

- Wash hands and don gloves.
- Select lateral aspect of the heel, clean with alcohol and allow to dry.
- Puncture skin with lancet so that blood flows freely. If blood flow is poor or has stopped, the blood may have clotted. Clean site with alcohol and wipe site with alcohol swab.
- Wipe away the first drop of blood with dry sterile gauze.
- Allow second larger drop of blood to form.
- Gently touch the filter paper to the large drop and allow the blood to soak through and completely fill the circle.
- Apply blood to one side of the filtered paper only.
- Fill all the 5 circles in the same manner
- Allow the blood spot to dry for a minimum of 3 hours.
- Mail the completed forms to the testing lab within 24 hours of collection. •

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