

Helpful Hints - How to Minimize Contamination and Collect from a Finger stick Sample

For more information, please visit <https://www.magellandx.com/leadcare-products/leadcare-ultra/support/product-literature/> to review our other technical bulletins.



1. In order to avoid contamination from the skin's surface, it is essential for the child to wash his or her hands with soap and water prior to collecting a finger stick sample. The use of warm water will increase blood flow to the fingertips. Do not use recycled disposable paper towels. Allow to air dry. Next, wipe the child's finger with an alcohol swab. Note: Using an alcohol swab alone is not sufficient enough to remove external sources of lead from a child's finger.



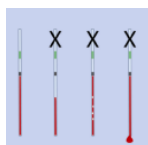
2. Lance the fleshy part of the finger, just to the side of the fingertip. Use a lancet 2.0 mm in depth. Hold the lancet firmly against the skin before depressing the unit. When using a lancet that has a blade (as opposed to a needle) inside, make sure to cut "across the grain" of the fingerprint. This will increase blood flow. If you cut "inside the groove" the slice tends to bleed less.



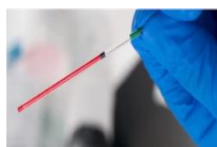
3. Apply slight pressure to start blood flow. Wipe away the first drop with a clean gauze and allow a new bubble of blood to form. Hold the capillary tube horizontal or at a 10 degree upward angle and touch it to the drop of blood. Capillary action will fill the tube even when it is angled upwards. Fill the capillary tube to the 50 µL black line.



Note: Employees with limited capillary blood collection experience may believe they need to be below the drop of blood – this is not correct. It will contribute to the introduction of air bubbles thus resulting in an under-filled tube. Make sure there are no gaps or bubbles present. Excess blood on the outside of the capillary tube should be wiped away before adding the sample to Treatment Reagent.



4. Do NOT use clotted blood. If there are clots present in the blood, obtain a new sample. Clots often form when blood flow is low and it takes a long time to fill the capillary tube. A good lance at the start often improves blood flow.



Perfect example of a properly filled capillary tube. Collecting 50 µL of blood sample into the capillary tube is the most critical measurement of the LeadCare Systems.

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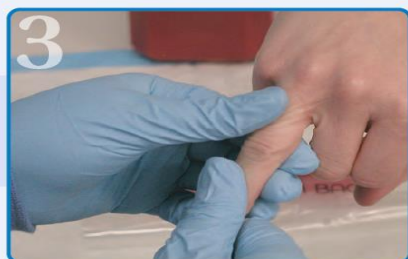
Steps for Collecting Fingerstick Blood Samples in Micro-Vials for Lead Testing



Place all collection materials on top of disposable pad. Open the lancet, alcohol swabs, gauze, bandage, and other items. Have all items ready for blood collection.



Wash hands with soap. Do not use recycled disposable paper towels. Allow to air dry. Do not allow child's finger to touch any surface. Put on your powder free gloves.



Massage the patient's hand and lower part of the finger to increase blood flow. Turn the hand down.



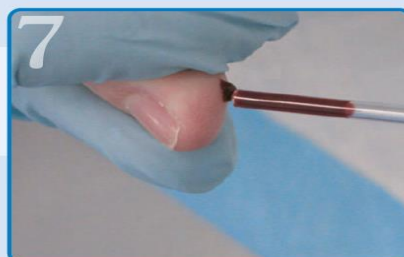
Scrub the patient's middle finger or ring finger with an alcohol swab.



Hold the finger in a downward position and lance the palm side surface of the finger.



Apply slight pressure to start blood flow. Blot the first drop of blood on a gauze pad and discard in appropriate container.



Keep the finger in a downward position to maintain blood flow. Hold the micro-collection tube at an angle of 10 degrees below the collection site and touch the tapered end of the tube into the droplet of blood. Do not touch the skin with the tube. Fill the micro-collection vial with the appropriate amount of blood as defined by the micro-collection container that you are using.



Once you have collected enough blood, apply a slight pressure to the finger to stop the bleeding. Apply a sterile adhesive bandage over the puncture site.



Seal the specimen container and, inverting it immediately, gently turn container 7-10 times to prevent clots from forming.



Place the label on the vial. If the label contains a barcode, the barcode needs to be vertical like a ladder when placed on the vial. If the barcode is not vertical, the laboratory will not be able to read the label. Properly discard all used materials and refrigerate the specimen until shipment or analysis.

For more information visit
www.cdc.gov

