

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
**CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL**  
**NEONATAL/PEDIATRIC CAPILLARY BLOOD GAS SAMPLING**

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**Purpose:** To obtain a neonatal/pediatric capillary blood gas sample.

**Procedure:**

1. Explain procedure to guardian.
2. Choose puncture site, (high vascular area), i.e. heel.
3. Clean area.
4. Warm site adequately with warming pad.
5. Puncture site with lancet & allow blood to flow freely into capillary tube (do not squeeze heel).
6. Cap ends of tube making sure sample is free of air bubbles.
7. Label specimen.
8. Ice sample & immediately analyze.
9. Information such as RR, FI02, temperature & puncture site are imperative for analysis.
10. Document completion of procedure & address any out of range values with MD/RN.

**EQUIPMENT:**

1. Warming pads
2. Lancet < 2.5 depth
3. Preheparinized capillary tube or equivalent
4. Tube end caps
5. Antiseptic wipes

**PRECAUTIONS:**

1. Bruising/Scarring
2. Bleeding
3. Avoid previous puncture sites
4. Avoid infected/swollen sites
5. Poorly perfused tissues may not give accurate results
6. Arterial Blood Gas sampling is the most accurate, however when unable to obtain Capillary Blood Gas sampling is acceptable.