27 August 2014

Dear Users,

The way we test dried blood spots (DBS) will be changing from September 15th 2014. We are moving to a fully automated system for HCV, HBV and HIV screening. This will improve quality and accuracy of testing for HCV antibody, HBV surface antigen, HBV core antibody and HIV antigen/antibody.

We will now require 5 full DBS spots per card. Four full spots will be required for the new automated screening process (regardless of the number of tests requested) and one full spot for PCR testing (if the patient is HCV antibody positive).

An ideal DBS should fill the circle up to the dotted line without going over the edge and the blood should be saturated through the filter paper.

Any DBS card that has insufficient material will not be tested.

If you have any queries please contact the virus laboratory on 0141 201 8722.

Yours sincerely

S. Shepherd
Samantha Shepherd
Clinical Scientist