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PEARLS OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council (CCTC) is a free online program for residents and fellows in laboratory medicine. The program provides a wealth of free educational materials and interactive tools. A valuable feature of the CCTC is the Pearls of Laboratory Medicine. The Pearls are brief presentations on one key topic succinctly presented using slides, audio, and transcript supplements.

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ON THE COVER *Newborn.* This image invokes a sense of calmness and well-being, which is the wish for the family of every infant. Although the vast majority of babies are born healthy, a small number will have genetic or biochemical disorders that may not become evident until irreversible damage has already occurred.

In the United States all states have newborn screening programs in which dried blood spots are tested for a variety of diseases. However, as with any process, the quality of output (test results) depends on the quality of input (specimen collection). Dried blood spots are no exception. This month's issue of *Clinical Chemistry* includes an article describing the effect of dried blood spot quality on newborn screening analyte concentrations, along with recommendations for minimum acceptance criteria for sample analysis. An accompanying editorial further highlights this topic. (See pages 423 and 466.) ©Getty Images. Photographer: Salva Garrigues. Reproduced with permission.



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