



# Gamma Check® E

## RAPID FOAL-SIDE SCREENING FOR NEONATAL IgG

Foals are only capable of absorbing the large IgG antibody molecules through their gut wall for the first 12 hours of life. This ability gradually declines to zero over the next 6 hours, so it is important for them to suckle good quality colostrum before they are 12 hours old. After 16-24 hours of age, immunoglobulin supplementation must occur parenterally.

### WHEN TO TEST FOR IgG LEVELS

Foals ingesting good quality colostrum usually have >800 mg IgG/dl by 4-8 hrs old. Early testing allows oral supplementation with colostrum or plasma. After 16-24 hrs of age, immunoglobulin supplementation must occur parenterally.

However, foals may be tested up to 48 hours of age to monitor their freedom from Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT) or Partial FPT. Consult flow chart overleaf.

### DIRECTIONS - WHOLE BLOOD

1. Add 1mL fresh whole blood to tube.
2. Swirl tube to ensure mixing and note time.
3. Tilt tube at 2 and 5 min. When blood no longer flows, invert tube and gently tap. The clot should remain firmly in place.
4. End point is formation of a clot. If this occurs in less than 5 min, the IgG is above 800 mg/dl.

If a firm clot has formed in less than five minutes, the foal has IgG levels of 800mg/dl or greater. If not, consult the flow chart. A jelly-like clot that slips down the side of the tube is usually positive (OK), but should be retested.

**False Positive results** may occur with sick foals (due to elevated Fibrinogen) or dehydrated foals, or with hemolyzed samples. In these cases, repeat the Gamma Check E test using serum.

### DIRECTIONS - SERUM

1. Collect blood into a red top tube. Allow to clot (30 min), then centrifuge to remove serum.
2. Add 1ml serum to tube.
3. Repeat steps A - 2 to 4 using serum.

**When serum is used in the Gamma Check E, clot formation in five minutes indicates IgG of 800mg/dl or greater.**

**\* CAUTION:**

The glutaraldehyde reagent is caustic. If skin or eye contact occurs, wash with copious amount of water & consult physician.

DO NOT LEAVE TUBES IN HOT SUN OR VEHICLE.  
Storage: Refrigerate between 2-8°C  
Do Not Freeze

#### PLASVACC

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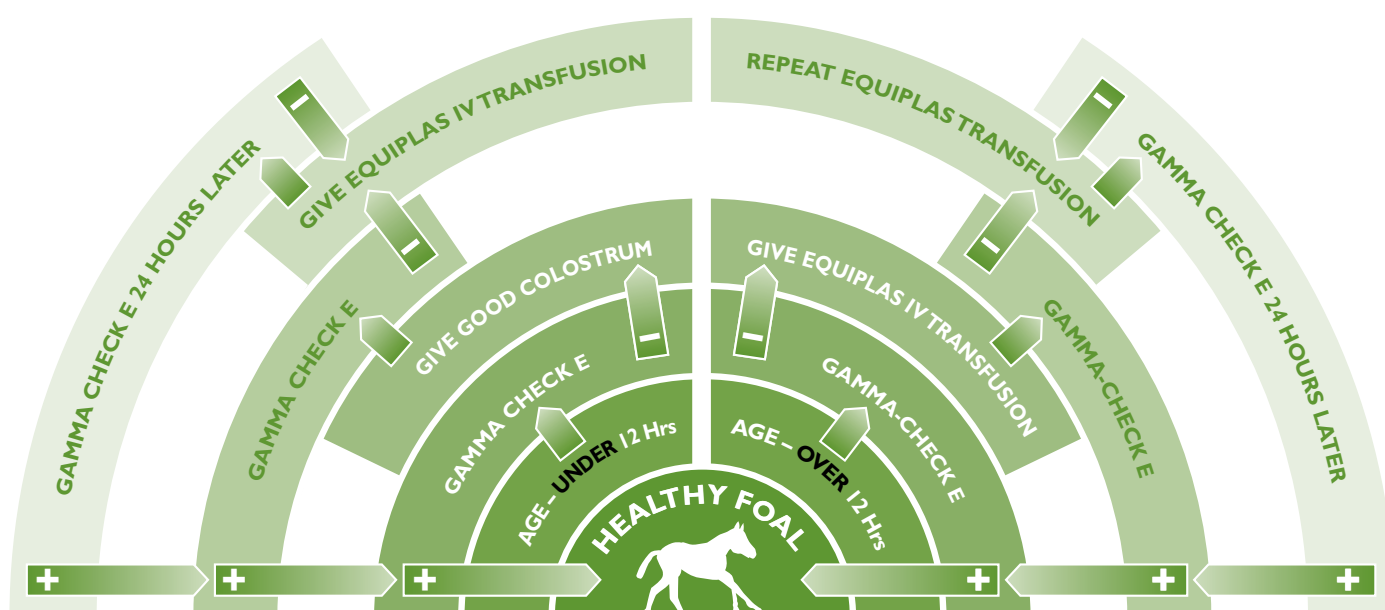
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# GUIDE TO DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF FAILURE OF PASSIVE TRANSFER

1. Because foals that nurse good quality colostrum in their first 12 hours should have over 8g/L IgG, the level should ideally be checked at about this age. This can be accomplished in 5 minutes at the foal's side using the Gamma Check E, utilising whole blood.
2. Foals with a negative or low Gamma Check E reading at less than 12 hours old, should be given good quality colostrum as soon as possible.



3. Foals older than 12 hours, with a low or negative Gamma-Check E reading, should be transfused with one unit of EQUIPLAS® initially, over a period of approximately 15 minutes. Transfusion reactions are rare with properly prepared commercial plasma, given to normal foals. However, compromised foals should receive plasma at a much slower rate (1–2 hours), to avoid volume overload. Signs of this would be increased heart rate and trembling — slow or stop transfusion and restart when signs disappear.
4. EQUIPLAS® should always be transfused from its original bag, and should not be mixed with any other drug/substance. Thawing instructions should be followed exactly.
5. Always transfuse with a filtered blood giving set with a 200 micron filter in the drip chamber.
6. Thawed product must be refrigerated and used within 7 days, or refrozen immediately.
7. Does not expire for 3 years from date of manufacture, when kept frozen.