

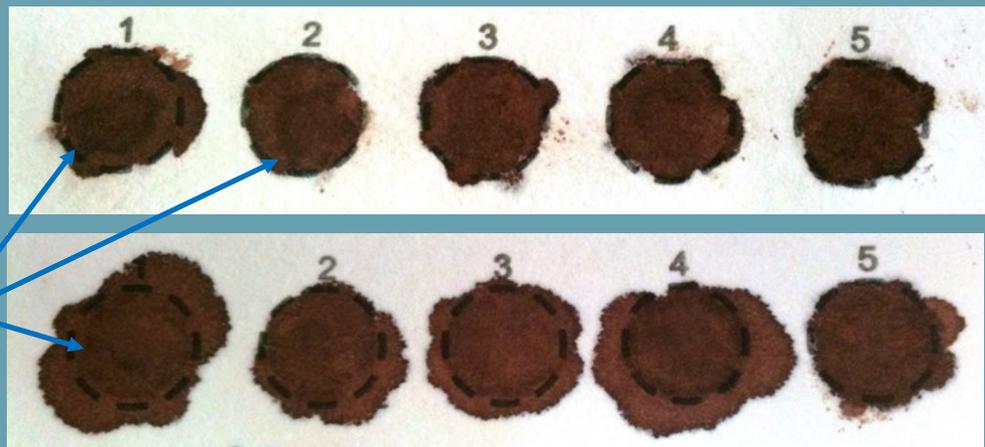
SPOTfocus

Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

The Top Reason for Unsatisfactory Newborn Screening Specimens:

BLOOD WAS CAKED, CLOTTED, OR LAYERED ONTO THE FILTER PAPER

Examples of specimens that were deemed unsatisfactory due to a "layered" appearance



In 2015, over **4600** newborn screening specimens were rejected because the blood was ***caked, clotted, or layered*** onto the filter paper. All of these specimens required a redraw and caused critical delays to testing.

Need tips on how to avoid this type of rejection?

Read on next page!

TIPS TO AVOID A CAKED, CLOTTED, OR LAYERED SPECIMEN

- Complete one circle at a time. DO NOT go back and apply additional blood to an incompletely filled circle. This will cause caking or clotting.
- Do not apply blood to both sides of filter paper.
- Use the proper size lancet (<2.0mm length). A finger lancet is not recommended.
- Wipe away the first drop of blood.
- Allow large blood drop to form then lightly touch to the filter paper while watching it soak through to ensure that the circle is completely filled.
- The order in which the spots are filled does not matter.
- 3 good quality circles are better than 5 poor quality circles.
- Avoid using capillary tubes for specimen collection. Capillary use will often cause clotting or other unsatisfactory qualities.

Other Helpful Resources

1

General newborn screening specimen collection questions:

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbs_collect_reqs.shtm

2

Special circumstances in newborn screening collection:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsSpecialC.shtm>

3

Healthcare Provider Resources:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm>

4

DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:

Email NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us or call 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585

5

Monthly Newborn Screening Facility Report Cards

To access your facility's report card, you must be a registered user of the Texas Newborn Screening Web Application (Neometrics). If you are not already a registered user, you can sign up by completing the required forms, here:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsRDSforms.shtm>

Why is a caked, clotted, or layered specimen rejected?

The filter paper is specially designed to hold a specific amount of blood. Caked, clotted and layered blood specimens have too much blood which will cause falsely elevated results.