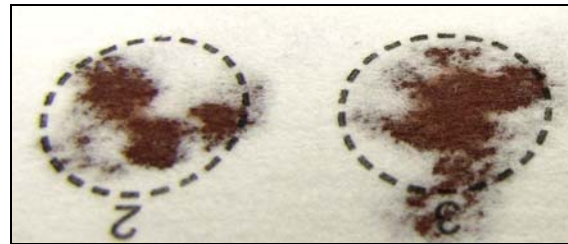


## Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints Vol. 4, 2011

### Unsatisfactory Newborn Screening Specimens due to INCOMPLETE SATURATION

In the last year, **over 2000** newborn screening specimens have been rejected because the blood was not allowed to properly soak through the filter paper. All of these specimens **required a redraw** and resulted in critical delays to testing.

**Specimen may appear OK on one side... ...but look this way on the other side.**



### TIPS TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF REJECTION:

- 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 filter paper to the blood drop **while watching it soak through** to ensure that the circle is completely filled.
- **Complete** one circle at a time. 3 **good** quality circles are better than 5 poor quality circles.
- Avoid applying additional blood to an incompletely filled circle. This often results in caking or clotting.

Make sure the blood completely soaks through the filter paper.

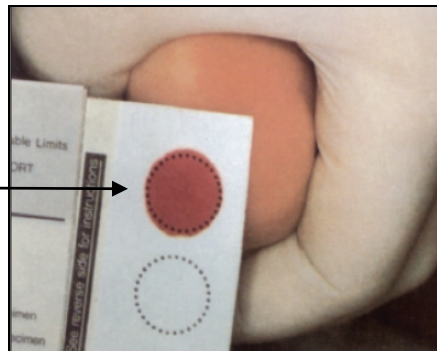


Photo from "Neonatal Screening Blood Specimen and Collection Handling Procedures" – Whatman Inc.

- Go to [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/spec\\_col.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/spec_col.shtm) to access videos, guides, presentations, and other training resources on specimen collection.

**Please contact the laboratory with any questions:  
Telephone: 1-888-963-7111 X7333**