



Texas Department of State
Health Services

SERUM SEPARATION DUE TO IMPROPER DRYING OR SPECIMEN COLLECTION

TIPS TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF REJECTION:

- Air dry specimen for at least 4 hours on a flat, nonabsorbent surface in a horizontal position before mailing
- Do not hang or stand specimens on end to dry
- Do not place specimens into a plastic bag or other confined areas when still damp
- Do not mail the specimen before it is thoroughly dried
- **It is possible that serum separation may occur in specimens collected from babies with low hematocrit levels. If collecting a specimen from a baby with low hematocrit, please attach a note stating as such to the newborn screening kit, and the laboratory will review the specimen accordingly.**

To access videos, guides, presentations, and other training resources on specimen collection, visit: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsHCRes.shtm#specCol>

Questions

Contact the DSHS Newborn Screening (NBS) Laboratory at:

NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us

1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585