



SPECIMEN APPEARED CONTAMINATED OR DISCOLORED

TIPS TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF REJECTION:

- Do not store specimens near areas where food, beverages or other possible contaminants are kept.
- Do not allow filter paper to come in contact with alcohol, antiseptic solutions, water, hand lotions, powders, gloved or ungloved fingers. (before or after collection)
- Avoid using capillary tubes for specimen collection.
- Before collection, after collection site has been cleaned, wipe area DRY with sterile gauze pad.
- Wipe away first drop of blood with sterile gauze pad.
- Only apply blood to one side of the paper, and watch blood soak through completely to the other side.
- Avoid “milking” or squeezing the heel.
- Try to have minimal contact between filter paper and heel. Allow blood to soak through filter paper without manipulation.
- Do not expose blood spots to direct heat or sunlight.
- Air dry specimen for at least 4 hours on a flat, nonabsorbent surface in a horizontal position before mailing (do not hang specimens to dry, and do not dry specimens vertically on end).
- Do not collect specimens on expired newborn screening cards.
- Do not place specimens in sealed plastic bags.

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:

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