

# SPOTfocus

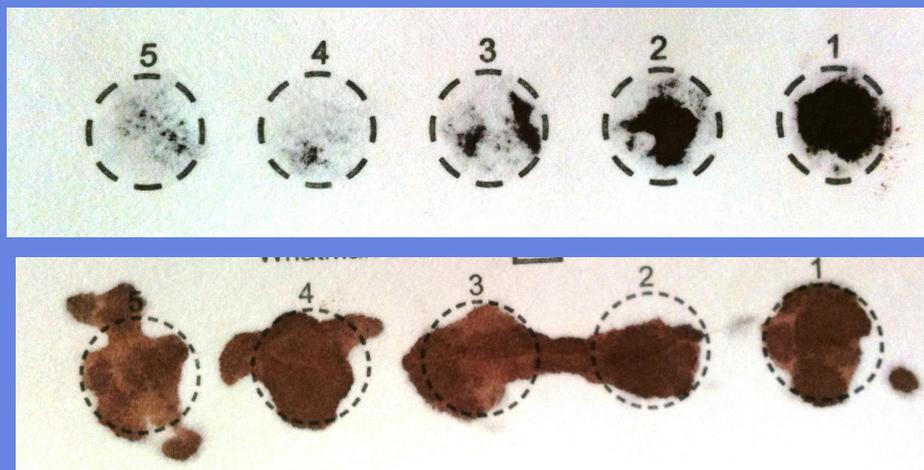
## Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

*One of the top Reasons for Unsatisfactory Newborn Screening Specimens:*

### INCOMPLETE SATURATION

Examples of specimens that were deemed unsatisfactory due to incomplete saturation.

*These examples show the side opposite the side that blood was applied.*



In 2015, over **2,700** newborn screening specimens were rejected because the blood **was not allowed to properly soak through 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 ENSURE A COMPLETELY SATURATED SPECIMEN

- Use the proper size lancet (<2.0mm length). A finger lancet is not recommended.
- 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.
- Complete one circle at a time. 3 good quality circles are better than 5 poor quality circles.
- Avoid repeatedly applying blood to filter paper circle. This does not allow blood to soak through to the other side.

### *Why is a specimen with incomplete saturation rejected?*

*The filter paper is specially designed to hold a specific amount of blood. Incomplete saturation will have too little blood for proper testing which may cause test results to be falsely low and not an accurate guide for the child's care.*

## *Other Helpful Resources*

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### **General newborn screening specimen collection questions:**

[http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbs\\_collect\\_reqs.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbs_collect_reqs.shtm)

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### **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>

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### **DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:**

Email [NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us) or call 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585

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### **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>