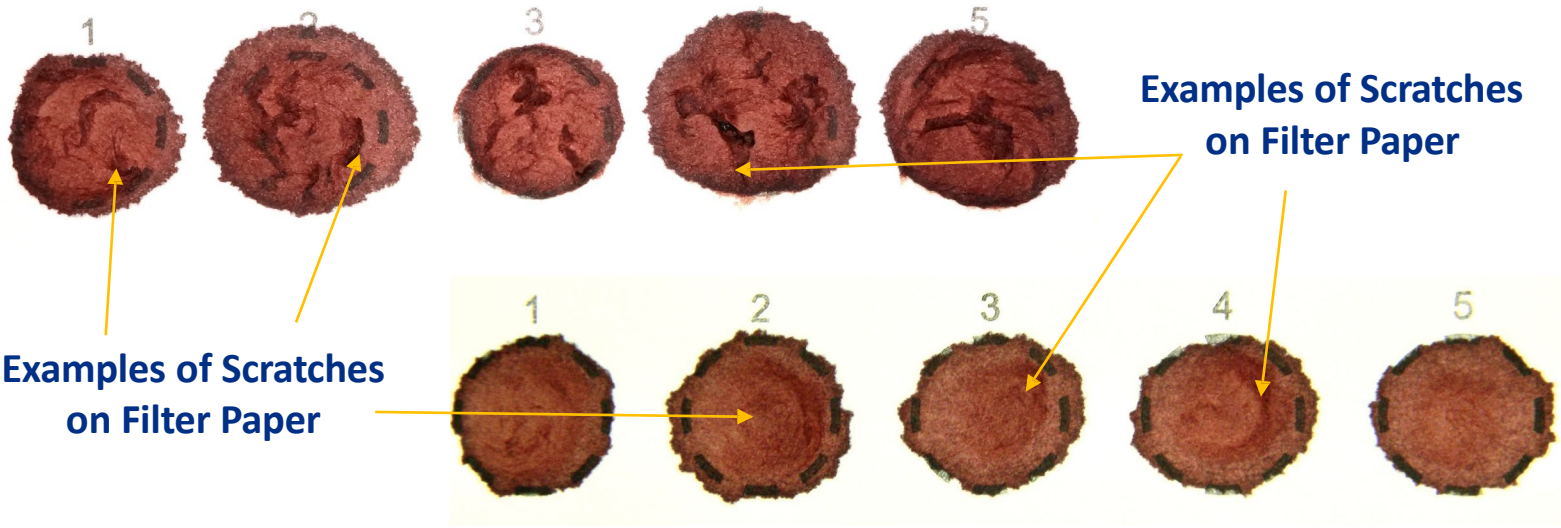
# SPOT *focus*

## Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Hints

***One reason for unsatisfactory newborn screening specimens is***

## FILTER PAPER IS SCRATCHED FROM THE POSSIBLE USE OF CAPILLARY TUBES




**In 2020, over 180 newborn screening specimens were rejected because the filter paper was scratched from the possible use of capillary tubes. All of these specimens required a recollection and caused critical delays to testing.**

### COLLECTION TIPS TO AVOID SCRATCHING THE FILTER PAPER

- Use the proper sized heel lancet (<2.0 mm length).*
- Avoid using capillary tubes for specimen collection. Using capillary tubes will often cause clotting or other unsatisfactory qualities.
- Lightly touch the filter paper with a large drop of blood while watching it **soak through completely** from the opposite side.
- Only allow minimal contact between filter paper and heel. Allow blood to soak through filter paper without manipulation.
- Ensure that each circle is completely filled, one at a time.
- Store Newborn Screening kits and collected specimens away from sunlight.

**Guideline has changed per CLSI NBS01-ED7:2021 Dried Blood Spot Specimen Collection for Newborn Screening, 7th Edition*


TEXAS Health and Human Services | Texas Department of State Health Services

VOL. 4| 2021
TEXAS NEWBORN SCREENING LABORATORY

## Why is a specimen with filter paper that is scratched from the possible use of capillary tubes rejected?

The filter paper is designed to hold a specific amount of blood. When the filter paper has been scratched, there may be an insufficient amount of blood for proper testing. An insufficient amount of blood may cause test results to be inaccurate; therefore, these specimens will be unsatisfactory for testing.

## Other Helpful Resources

- **Newborn screening collection video:**
  *https://youtu.be/S51Y9ShD6HI?si=hCdRoIZcCT7i9K2R*

- **DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory Contact:**
  Email: *NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us*
  or call *1-888-963-7111 ext. 7333*