

NEWBORN SCREENING SPECIMEN ADEQUACY

In addition to assessing the adequacy of the identification on the TRF and specimen collection card, the NAPS Lab personnel must evaluate the adequacy of the NBS specimens based on the quality and quantity of the blood specimen itself. When assessing the blood specimen, the following points should be taken into consideration:

- Blood must completely fill both sides of the circles inscribed on the collection card.
- Blood spots must be uniform throughout with no clots on the surface of either side, without a layered or uneven appearance, and without a sandwich appearance, i.e., white center layer when punched.
- The collection card must not appear to be dirty or have something spilled on the filter paper.
- The blood spots must be of normal color, not pale nor dark or greenish in color.
- The blood spots must be dried before mailing and, therefore, no blood may be on adjacent papers.
- The specimen must not be collected on any lot before Lot N or non-State-of-California collection cards.
- The specimen must not be collected on any filter paper past its expiration date.
- The specimen must be received by the 14th day after collection.
- The blood spots, when hemoglobin testing is completed, must not have a total area count that is designated "Low Area" or "High Area."
- At least two adequate blood spots must be on the collection card.

Judge each blood spot on the collection card using the above criteria. If a specimen is inadequate, write a large "I" on any empty space on the TRF and "I" by the bar code accession number on the collection card. Enter the two-digit inadequacy code on the TRF, in the empty space above where the accession bar code label is placed. Following are the codes for inadequacy:

NEWBORN SCREENING CODES FOR INADEQUACY

- 01 - Circles are not completely filled.
- 02 - Blood is not soaked through evenly to other side of the collection card.
- 03 - Clots appear on the surface of the sample.
- 04 - Blood is spread unevenly or layered (incorrect collection or drying).
- 05 - Blood or paper appears contaminated by spill or is soiled.
- 06 - Blood is very pale.
- 07 - Blood is very dark as though heated.
- 08 - Blood is greenish as though old.
- 09 - Specimen is too old (14 days from collection; collection date is day one).
- 10 - Specimen was found unprotected in mail.
- 11 - Blood spots are not completely dry.
- 12 - Sample does not elute (determined after elution or testing).
- 13 - Specimen was not collected on acceptable filter paper.
- 14 - NBS form number on TRF does not match number on collection paper.
- 15 - Anomalous pattern of test results.
- 16 - No blood is spotted on collection paper (or there is no collection card).
- 17 - Hemoglobin concentration is too low (determined after testing).
- 18 - Hemoglobin concentration is too high (determined after testing).
- 19 - TRF entered without form number.
- 20 - Specimen inadequate - Other Reason
(This reason is without a number in SIS; it is just listed as **Other Reason for Inadequacy** on the drop-down list.)