

BLOOD SPOT CHECK

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN



- No foreign substances have contaminated the filter paper.
- The blood fills all printed circles and is applied evenly on one side of the filter paper only, free of layering and clots.
- The specimen dried in a horizontal position for at least three hours, away from direct contact with surfaces, heat, and sunlight.
- The specimen is sent to the appropriate location no more than 24 hours after collection.

UNACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS

POSSIBLE CAUSES

No Blood



- Failure to obtain any blood

Quantity of blood insufficient



- Filter paper circle incompletely filled or not saturated
- Blood applied to filter paper with needle or capillary tube
- Contamination of surface of filter paper circle

Scratched or abraded blood spots



- Blood applied improperly with capillary tube or by other means

Wet or discolored blood spots



- Specimen not properly dried before mailing

Supersaturated blood spots



- Excess blood applied to the filter paper, usually with capillary tube or needle
- Blood applied to both sides of the filter paper

Diluted blood spots



- Puncture site squeezed or "milked" to expel blood
- Exposure of blood spots to direct heat
- Contamination of filter paper before or after blood collection by gloved or ungloved hands or by substances such as alcohol, feeding or antiseptic solutions, hand lotion or powder

Clotted or layered blood spots



- Touching the same filter paper circle to a blood drop several times
- Filling the circle from both sides of the filter paper

Serum rings evident in blood spots



- Alcohol not allowed to dry completely before skin puncture is made
- Allowing filter paper to come in contact with alcohol, water, hand lotion, etc.
- Squeezing the area around the puncture site excessively
- Drying the specimen improperly
- Applying blood to filter paper with a capillary tube