

What is a Contaminated Unsatisfactory Specimen?

*An **unsatisfactory specimen** is one that is poor quality in which the Newborn Screening adequacy may be affected.*

What are the reasons a specimen is deemed unsatisfactory?

- Quantity Insufficient (QNS)
- Clotted or Layered
- Scratched or Abraded
- * **Contaminated**
- Specimen Too Old
- Damaged in Transit
- Collected on an Expired Card
- Patient Too Old

What does Contaminated mean?

Blood cells have separated from serum/tissue fluid and blood may have also encountered a foreign liquid substance. **Contaminated** specimens will have either serum rings around the blood spot or lighter pink fluid noticed in the blood spot.

How to prevent collecting a Contaminated specimen:

- Do not milk the heel.
- Wipe away the first drop of blood.
- Avoid contact with liquids like alcohol, TPN, or lotion.
- Allow the blood drop to freely form.

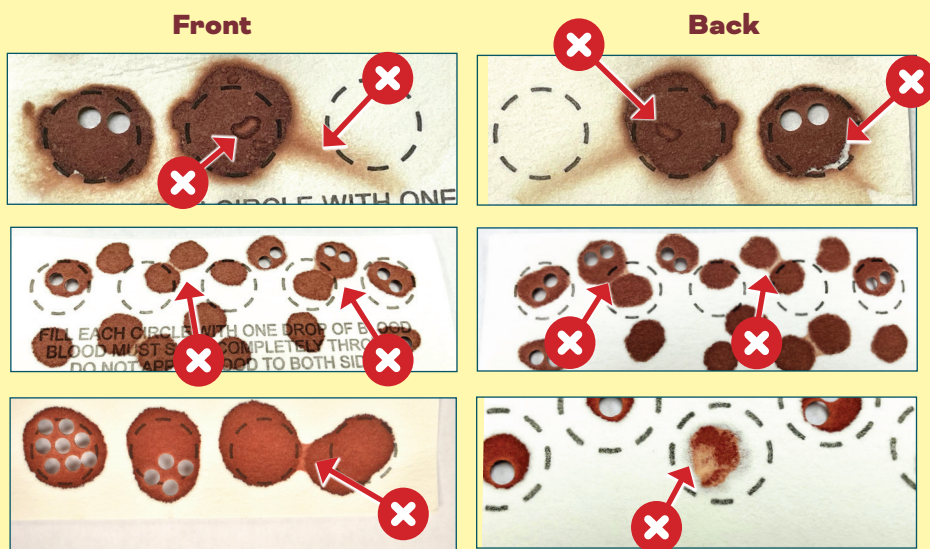
Questions or concerns?

Contact the Newborn Screening Quality Improvement team at: nbsqi@dph.sc.gov

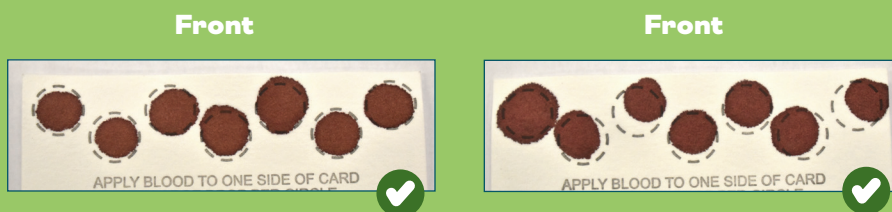
What causes Contamination?

- Milking the heel
- Specimen touches a liquid substance
- Alcohol has not dried

What does a Contaminated specimen look like?



Examples of Satisfactory Specimens



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**