

What is a Scratched or Abraded 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 Scratched or Abraded mean?

The filter paper was damaged, contains creases or tears, folded or bent and blood drops will be rough, wrinkled or rippled.

How to prevent collecting a Scratched or Abraded specimen:

- Do not touch heel to filter paper.
- Do not use capillary tubes.
- Do not touch filter paper after applying blood drops.
- Allow specimen to dry flat with blood application side up.
- Protective flap or cover should not be folded until specimen is completely dry (ready to ship).
- Prior to use, blood collection forms should be stored standing on side in packaging (do NOT store flat).



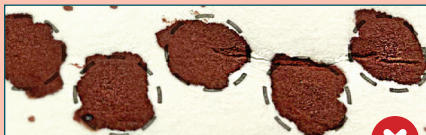
What causes Scratched or Abraded specimens?

- Bending or folding specimen cards
- Too many specimens in envelope
- Wet specimen touches another object
- Protective flap was allowed to dry on top of specimen
- Using a capillary tube

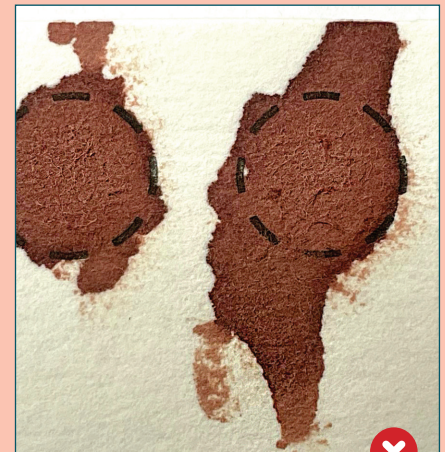
What does a Scratched or Abraded specimen look like?

Rough, rippled blood drops and/or folded, torn, or bent filter paper.

Front



Back



Examples of Satisfactory Specimens

Front



Front



Questions or concerns?

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



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PUBLIC HEALTH**