

## Reasons for which specimens are rejected

### 1. Specimen quantity insufficient for testing.

Possible causes:

- Removing filter paper before blood has completely filled circle or before blood has soaked through to the other side.
- Applying blood to the filter paper with a capillary tube.
- Allowing filter paper to come in contact with gloved or ungloved hands and/or substances such as hand lotion or powder, which may interfere with absorption.

### 2. Specimen received in the lab > 9 days from collection date.

Possible causes:

- The specimen may have been lost or misdirected in the mail.
- Specimens may have been batched for several days before being mailed. **Do not hold or batch specimens. Mail within 24 hours after collection. Facilities are encouraged to use overnight delivery.**

### 3. Specimen appears clotted or layered.

Possible causes:

- Applying more than one drop of blood to the same filter paper circle.
- Filling circle from both sides of filter paper.

### 4. Specimen appears scratched or abraded.

Possible causes:

- Applying blood with a capillary tube or other device.

### 5. Specimen not dry before mailing.

Possible causes:

- Mailing specimen before drying for a minimum of three to four hours.

### 6. Specimen appears over saturated.

Possible causes:

- Applying excess blood to the filter paper, usually with a device.
- Applying blood to both sides of the filter paper.

### 7. Specimen appears diluted, discolored, or contaminated.

Possible causes:

- Squeezing or “milking” of area surrounding the puncture site.

- Allowing filter paper to come in contact with gloved or ungloved hands, or substances such as alcohol, formula, antiseptic solutions, water, hand lotion, or powder, etc., either before or after blood specimen collection.
- Exposing blood spots to direct heat.

#### **8. Specimen exhibits serum rings.**

Possible causes:

- Not wiping alcohol from puncture site before making skin puncture.
- Allowing filter paper to come in contact with alcohol, hand lotion, etc.
- Squeezing area surrounding puncture site excessively.
- Drying specimen improperly.
- Applying blood to filter paper with a capillary tube.