Specimen greater than 10 days old when received by the State newborn screening laboratory.

- The dried blood spot must be shipped to the laboratory as soon as it is thoroughly air-dried (3-4 hours) but no later than 24 hours after specimen collection.

Quantity not sufficient.

Blood applied on multiple spots on filter paper.

Blood on coverlet.

Uneven saturation of filter paper.

Presence of thick, clotted areas on the surface of the filter paper.

Blood applied by capillary tube improperly.

- The capillary tube was moved in circular motion during application to the filter paper. Improper capillary tube application caused clotted swirl marks.

Rough, wrinkled, or abraded blood spots.

Collection paper bent during the collection resulting in blood spreading in a ripple formation.

- If the filter paper was bent or creased before or during the blood application, causing it to diffuse in an uneven, rippled manner.

Contamination or adulteration of the specimen.

- Sample was collected through a line or port without proper flushing prior to collecting the blood sample; Filter paper came into contact with gloved or ungloved hands, or substances such as alcohol, formula, water, hand lotion, etc. either before or after the blood specimen collection; Blood spots were exposed to direct heat.

Specimen was wet when received.

- Specimen was submitted before drying thoroughly. Blood spots must be allowed to air-dry for the allotted time (3 to 4 hours) in a horizontal position, away from direct heat and sunlight. Do not place in airtight plastic bag.

Excessive spreading of blood spots.

Serum separation.

- Collection card dried vertically or on side instead of flat; squeezing excessively around puncture site; allowing filter paper to come into contact with alcohol, hand lotion, etc.

Guidelines for the Shipment of Dried Bloodspot Specimens to the Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories

- Allow blood spots to thoroughly air dry for at least 3 hours in a horizontal position, away from heat and sunlight.
- After the blood spots are dry, cover the filter paper with the paper overlay attached to the collection kit.
- The collection kit needs to have the biohazard symbol attached in order to meet US Postal Regulations.
- The dried blood spots must NOT be packaged in airtight, leak-proof plastic bags.
- The collection kit can be enclosed in a quality-bond paper envelope and securely sealed.
- Mail the specimens to the laboratory as soon as it is thoroughly air-dried.
- Send every specimen as soon as possible, do not wait to collect more specimens before shipment.
- Do not put specimens in an outside drop box.

For more information, visit www.kdheks.gov/neonatal/neonatal_blood_collection.