

# WHAT IS A QUANTITY INSUFFICIENT 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)**
  - Contaminated
  - Collected on an Expired Card
  - Clotted or Layered
  - Specimen Too Old
  - Scratched or Abraded
  - Damaged in Transit
  - Patient Too Old

## What does **Quantity Insufficient** mean?

**QNS** means there is **NOT enough blood** to complete the Newborn Screening panel, which includes retesting abnormal results and sending a specimen for confirmation.

## How to prevent collecting a **QNS** specimen:

- Allow one large drop to form and fall on pre-printed circle.
- Ensure blood soaks through to opposite side.
- Add additional drops anywhere on filter paper, even on top of the text.
- Blood drops should NOT touch one another.
- Dry card flat with blood application side facing up!

## Examples of Satisfactory Specimens



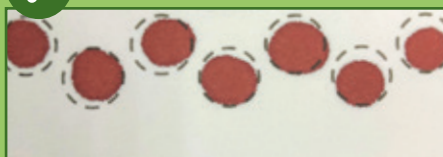
Front



Front



Back



Back

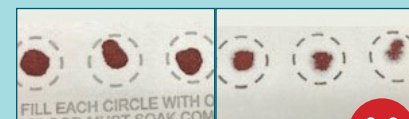


## What causes QNS?

- Prematurely applying blood drop before a large drop has formed
- Drop is less than 75% of pre-printed circle
- Blood did not absorb fully or soak through the back

## What does a QNS specimen look like?

This is **NOT** enough blood to complete the testing.



## Questions or concerns?

Contact the Newborn Screening Quality Improvement team at: [nbsqi@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:nbsqi@dhec.sc.gov)