

## Unsatisfactory Specimen: Layered Sample

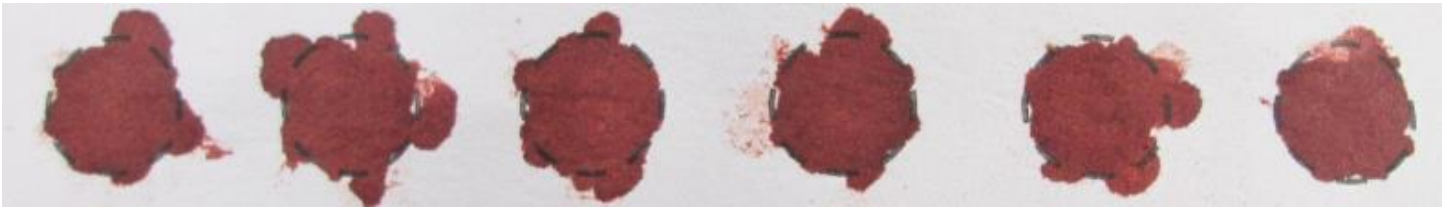
### Background:

- Layered specimens occur when more than one drop of blood is applied to a circle or blood is applied to both sides of the filter paper.
- Layered specimens may cause test results to be inaccurate.  
A repeat specimen will be required.  
This can lead to critical delays in identifying serious health issues for the infant.

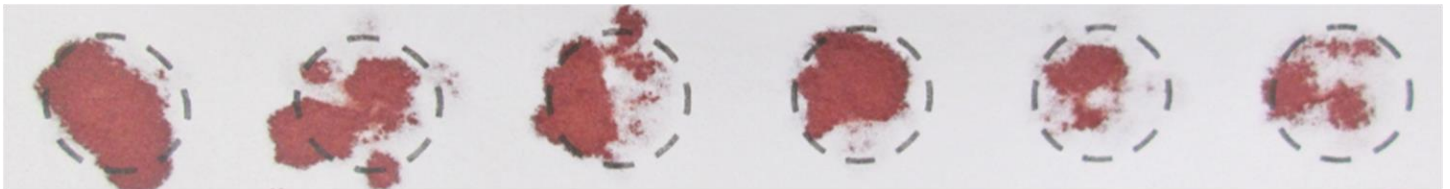
### Tips to Avoid Layered Samples:

- Avoid applying additional blood to a circle that is not filled. Do **not** touch the same circle multiple times with blood.
- Do not apply blood to both sides of the filter paper.
- Avoid using capillary tubes for specimen collection. If medically necessary, avoid devices containing heparin or EDTA.
- Allow a large blood drop to form and lightly touch the drop to the filter paper. Allow the drop to soak through and completely fill the circle.

### Layered Images (front and back of the same card):



Front of card: More than one drop of blood was applied to each circle.



Back of card: Layering prevented blood from evenly soaking through to back of card.

### Satisfactory Specimen Image:



Both the front and back of the specimen card should look like the image above. Note the circles are filled and the even saturation of a single blood drop applied to each circle.