**Unsatisfactory Specimen Quick Tips**

**Most Common Reasons for an Unsatisfactory Specimens**

**Insufficient Quantity** (code 930)
- Removing the filter paper before blood has completely filled circle or soaked through
- Paper has come into contact with something before or after collection - gloved or ungloved hands or substances like lotion or powder
- Blood applied with capillary tube, syringe, or other alternative to heel application

**Uneven Saturation** (code 950)
- Touching the filter paper to the baby’s heel
- Applying multiple drops (layering) of blood to the same spot or applying from both sides
- Viscosity of the blood – patient is cold or dehydrated
- Drying specimen vertically – can cause serum separation

**Blood Applied in Multiple Spots** (code 940)
- Blood applied with capillary tube, syringe, or other alternative method
- Applying multiple small drops due to poor blood flow or not taking enough time for drops to develop

**Rough, Wrinkled, or Abraded Blood Spots** (code 970)
- Blood applied with capillary tube, syringe, or other alternative method, with the tube or syringe coming into contact with the filter paper

**Best Practices to Avoid Unsatisfactory Specimens**
- Always collect from either side of the fleshy part of the heel
- Take your time
- Warm the heel before collecting
- Use a single large drop
- Apply blood to only one side of the filter paper
- Check both sides of the filter paper
- Do not allow anything to ever touch the collection spots
- Dry specimens horizontally

**5 spots**
- Front
- Back

**More than 80% full**