Reasons for specimen rejection (UNSATS)
(with codes for Arizona unsats)

Problems with the family or baby

**UPR** Parent refusal
Make sure that parents are aware of the consequences of refusing the test. Document the refusal in the medical record, fill out demographic information on the collection card, check the “parent refused testing” box in the lower right corner of the card and submit the card to Arizona State Lab without blood.

**UIO** Infant too old (> 1 year of age)
Newborn screening reference ranges apply only to newborn infants and most accurately indicate risk of disease when specimens are collected early. Serious symptoms of these diseases appear and irreversible damage is done if treatment is not started early.

Problems with the card

**UCE** expired collection card
CLIA regulations provide that valid results cannot be reported if the card has expired.

**UNI** no identifying information
Results cannot be reported if the infant cannot be identified.

**UNO** no blood
Tests cannot be performed without blood.

Problems with collection of the blood

**UCC** clotted or caked blood
This happens when a large enough drop of blood is not taken and blood begins to clot before being applied to the filter paper. Uniform amounts of blood cannot be taken from samples with extra clotted blood in some areas of the spot.

**UIS** insufficient specimen
The baby didn’t bleed well. Not enough blood was submitted to complete the whole panel of tests.

**UMA** multiple specimen applications
Blood may have been applied to both sides of the filter paper or with overlapping drops of blood instead of one big drop in each circle. Uniform amounts of blood cannot be taken for testing.

**UNS** uneven saturation
With areas more saturated with blood than other areas of the spot instead of one big drop in each circle, uniform amounts of blood cannot be taken for testing.

**UTS** torn or scratched
This usually happens when capillary tubes are used to collect the blood and then it is spotted onto the filter paper. The rough edges of the tubes can easily abrade the filter paper if they are dragged along the surface. With areas where filter paper is missing or bunched up, uniform amounts of blood cannot be taken for testing.
UST  serum or tissue fluid separation
This can happen if the first drop of blood is not wiped away, if a liquid contaminant is
allowed to come in contact with the blood spots, if the area around the puncture site is
squeezed excessively (“milking”), or if the specimen is dried vertically so that gravity
can separate blood components before complete drying.

Problems in handling and shipping
UTO  specimen too old (>14 days from collection date)
Blood components degrade with age and exposure to heat and light and cannot be
accurately measured.

USD  specimen detached from form
Results cannot be reported if the infant may be incorrectly identified.

USC  contaminated
Filter paper has come in contact with gloved or ungloved hands or substances such as
alcohol, formula, antiseptic solutions, water, hand lotion or powder, etc. before or after
specimen collection. Contaminated specimens yield unreliable results.

Problem in the lab
URS  results inconsistent
Repeat testing of the same sample gives results that are greatly different from one
another. This could indicate that the sample was unevenly saturated or damaged in
some way.