

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.