

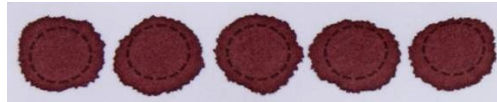


COLLECTING A VALID DRIED BLOOD SPOT SAMPLE

EXAMPLES OF VALID AND INVALID DBS SAMPLES

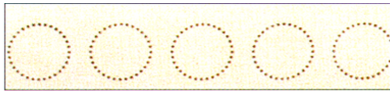


VALID SAMPLE:



70uL of whole blood collected in each circle

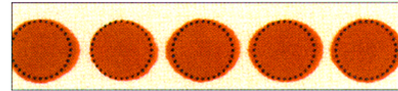
INVALID SAMPLES:



NO BLOOD

Causes:

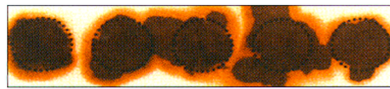
- Failure to obtain blood



SAMPLE NOT DRIED SUFFICIENTLY

Causes:

- Mailing the sample before drying for a minimum of 4 hours



SAMPLE EXHIBITS SERUM RINGS - THE SERUM HAS SEPARATED FROM THE CELLS

Causes:

- Not allowing alcohol from the swab to dry before making skin puncture
- Blood applied with capillary tube containing anticoagulant
- Drying specimen incorrectly



SAMPLE APPEARS HEMOLYZED, DISCOLOURED OR CONTAMINATED

Causes:

- Squeezing or "milking" the puncture site
- Exposing blood spots to direct heat
- Filter paper contaminated with powder, water, alcohol or lotion



INSUFFICIENT COLLECTION

Causes:

- Failure to collect a sufficient quantity of blood required for testing



SAMPLE APPEARS CLOTTED OR LAYERED

Causes:

- Excess blood applied
- Blood applied to both sides of filter paper

References

1. World Health Organization. Blood Collection and Handling - Dry Blood Spots (DBS). www.who.int/diagnostics_laboratory/documents/guidance/module14_blood_collection_and_handling_dbs.pdf?ua=1