Satisfactory Specimens

Satisfactory specimen. Circles are filled completely to the outer edge and evenly saturated. The reverse side looks the same.

Unsatisfactory Specimens

Insufficient quantity of blood.

Possible causes (shown in order):
- Circles are not completely filled
- Heel pressed against filter paper — often have poor saturation on the reverse side
- Poor saturation — blood has not soaked completely through to the back of the filter paper

Layered specimen. Blood was applied multiple times to the same circle or the circle was filled on both sides of the filter paper. This can also lead to supersaturation.

Serum rings. Possible causes: anemic infant, excessively squeezing area surrounding puncture site, allowing filter paper to come in contact with alcohol, applying blood to filter paper with a capillary tube.

Blood is chafed/abraded/torn. This can happen when blood is applied using a capillary tube or other device.

*Angled to better illustrate the abrasion.