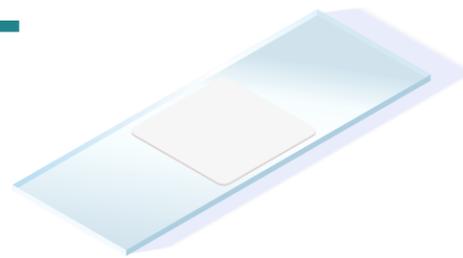


# DO'S AND DON'TS TO PREVENT FALSE-POSITIVE AFB SMEARS



## DO

- ✔ Use only clean, new slides
- ✔ Use only pencils, bar codes, or other methods that remain legible during staining
- ✔ Verify slides are correctly labeled with laboratory or patient identifiers
- ✔ Ascertain that reagents and rinse water are free of AFB
- ✔ Filter stains if precipitants are present
- ✔ Use filtered or deionized water
- ✔ Use a negative control slide
- ✔ Wipe oil immersion lens after each AFB-positive smear



## DON'T

- ✘ Attempt to reuse slides
- ✘ Allow slides to touch each other
- ✘ Bulk stain or use staining jars
- ✘ Use large containers of reagents or carboys of water
- ✘ Use standing water to rinse slides
- ✘ Allow microscopists who have not been evaluated for competency to report smear results
- ✘ Use unfiltered water to rinse

