Legacy Laboratory Services

Patient Safety and Specimen Labeling Guidelines

August 23, 2010

To Meet National Patient Safety Goals, Legacy Requires Two Identifiers on Specimens

Improving the accuracy of patient identification is one of the National Patient Safety Goals as implemented by The Joint Commission (TJC) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP). This goal requires two identifiers on each patient specimen. Please note:

1) Specimens not labeled according to the requirements below will not be accepted for testing by our laboratory.
2) A client service representative will notify your office concerning any specimen labeling issues.
3) Irretrievable specimen labeling issues will be referred to a pathologist for consultation with the ordering provider.

Thank you for your assistance in preventing patient care errors due to specimen mislabeling.

Blood Bank Specimen Labeling Requirements

- Labeling requirements have not changed and all specimen labels must include the following:
  - Patient Full Legal Name (First and Last)
  - Patient Date of Birth (DOB)
  - Date and Time of Collection
  - Initials of Person Collecting the Specimen
  - Social Security Number (if available)

Specimen Labeling Requirements

- Always label samples **at the time of collection in the presence of the patient**.
- Use a minimum of **two patient identifiers** on every sample submitted for testing.
- Required patient identifiers include Patient Full Legal Name (First and Last) **AND** at least one additional identifier:
  - Patient Date of Birth (DOB) **or**
  - Social Security Number **or**
  - Numbered Requisition Label
- Specimens submitted on slides must have patient full legal name (first and last) and one additional identifier **on each slide**. The container holding the slides should also have two acceptable patient identifiers.

For your convenience, Legacy requisitions have adhesive labels printed with a unique identifying number. Please print the patient's full legal name on this label and attach to the specimen. **Last name and first initial are not acceptable**.

For additional information, contact:
Client Services 503-413-1234 or 877-270-556
Or your Diagnostic Field Representative

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