



Patient Identification and Specimen Labeling

Correct identification of patients is a National Patient Safety goal. A minimum of two patient identifiers *must* be used to identify the patient, and *must* be on the specimen before submission to the laboratory. The person collecting the specimen must positively identify the patient before collecting the specimen and label the specimen in the presence of the patient. This is done to make sure each patient gets the correct laboratory result, and thereby the correct medicine and treatment.

Acceptable forms of patient identification and labeling:

- Patient first name and last name, patient date of birth
- Patient first name and last name, patient history number (medical record number)
- Patient first name and last name, patient social security number

- Additionally, specimens submitted for pre-transfusion testing *must* be labeled with:
 - Date of collection
 - Identification of individual collecting the specimen

Proper identification and labeling of patient specimens is a critical component of patient safety and quality laboratory results.



**For questions please call Sparrow Laboratories
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