

Benefis Health System Department of Pathology
Laboratory/Clinical Policy/Procedure
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TITLE: PATIENT IDENTIFICATION POLICY

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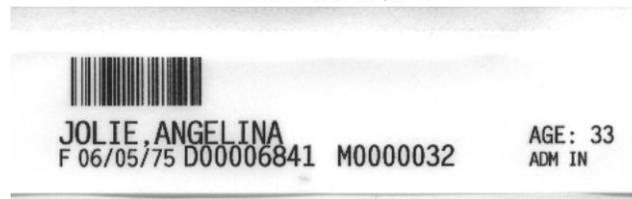
PRINCIPLE:

Before any phlebotomy procedure, the patient must be positively identified using the patient's armband.

POLICY:

Inpatients must be wearing a hospital armband. It must be on their person, not on the bed or on a bedside table. No one will be drawn without an armband except in an emergency situation.* The armband must have a legible patient name, medical record number and account number. **Before drawing the patient**, match the two identifiers, which are patient name and medical record number on your computer label. Date of birth and verbal confirmation with the patient is also part of this process. If any of these do not match, contact the nurse or the ward secretary to correct the situation before the patient is drawn. See the example below:

ARMBAND



LABEL



*In an emergency situation, a John Doe name with a designated medical record number will be assigned. The Laboratory will then proceed in the same manner of identifying the patient and performing specimen collection. When John Doe has been identified, phlebotomist who drew sample will add correct name and medical record number to John Doe blood bank band and tubes.

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Inpatients

A computer label will be generated when a laboratory test is ordered either by the nursing unit or laboratory. The following information will be on the computer label used for patient identification.

1. The patient's complete name
2. The patient's medical record number
3. Date and time of obtaining the specimen

Patient identification and computer-generated labels will identify all patient specimens, specimen types and aliquots.

Automated specimen identification has been implemented with the Mobilab handheld devices. The phlebotomist can scan a patient ID wristband at the bedside which will reduce identification errors.

Outpatients

There must be a verbal verification with the outpatient to confirm first and last name along with date of birth. A computer label will be generated when the Laboratory tests are ordered.

Specimen Labeling Requirements (*example: coming from out of hospital sources*)

BASIC required information for any Specimen:

1. Patient's full name
2. Date of birth
3. Initials (clearly written) of the collector
4. Date and Time of collection.

**If Medical Record number is available to the collector, it can be included as well.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW:

Approved by Gregory D Sloop MD 1/9/12

Reviewed by Wade Nelson 08/23/18