

**ARNOT HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

POLICY #: LS.PAL.0018
(previously VII.iii.1145)
TITLE: PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

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DATE OF ISSUE: 11/14/05
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Noemi Bentley, MT 11/14/05

FACILITIES COVERED: AOMC AMS SJH IDMH

OWNER(S): LABORATORY, CLA SUPERVISOR

TITLE: PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

Identification of a patient is crucial. The two identifiers used by our facility are patient's first and last name and date of birth. All patients must be properly identified prior to drawing blood. There are no exceptions to this rule. The phlebotomist must ensure that the blood specimen is being drawn from the individual designated on the request form. The phlebotomist must not rely on the bed tag or on charts or records placed on the bed, nearby tables, or equipment. All hospital and ED patients will have an identification bracelet. If the patient is not wearing a bracelet, the blood is not to be drawn until the patient is properly identified. Failure to have patients properly identified is cause for an incident report. The ID bracelet is to contain the patient's full legal name and date of birth, and, if admitted, their medical record number and admitting physician. Green alert bracelets are to be checked prior to drawing blood. These may contain information that may alter patient care.

Regardless of the clinical setting, the following steps ensure correct patient identification:

For conscious, alert patients, ask them to state their first and last name and date of birth.

For infants, young children, unconscious, dependent adults, mentally incompetent, and non- English speaking patients, ask the patient's caretaker, nurse, relative, or friend to identify the patient by the patient's first and last name, and date of birth.

For sleeping patients, wake patient up for routine identification. Sleeping patients should be awakened before drawing blood as there might be unexpected movements or jerks either while introducing the needle, or while it is in place in the arm.

For comatose patients, ask the nurse or the patient's caretaker to identify the patient for you.

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Revised By: Noemi Bentley Revisions Made: 1. Deleted lines with reference to Blood Bank bracelets 2. Added Arnot Health to the heading	Date: 3/3/17
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Adm. Director: Judy Wolf ,MT(ASCP)	Date: 3/3/17

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