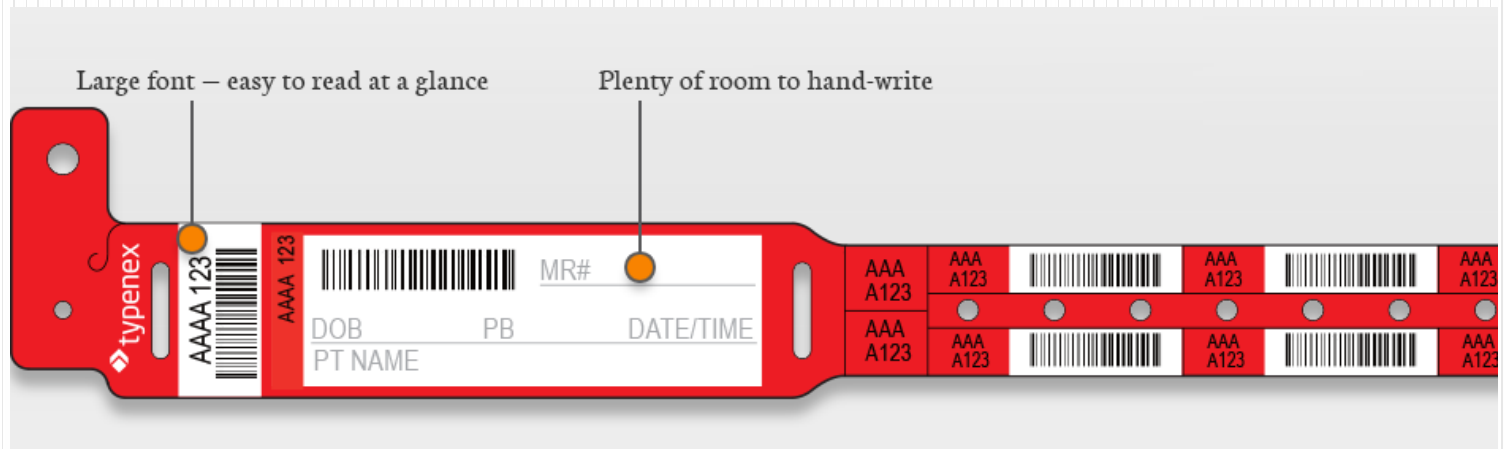


Arm-banding a patient for a crossmatch

By: Amanda Rawl MLS(ASCP)



Why armband?

- Armbanding a patient, as well as the tube ensures proper identification to meet the requirements for AABB as well as the FDA. All blood bank procedures are based on AABB and FDA guidelines.
- Misidentification of a patient is one of the top causes of transfusion reaction and has been reported as a cause of transfusion related fatality.
- Reactions related to mislabeling or misidentification are reportable to the FDA.



Labeling and arm banding must always be done at the patient's side!!!

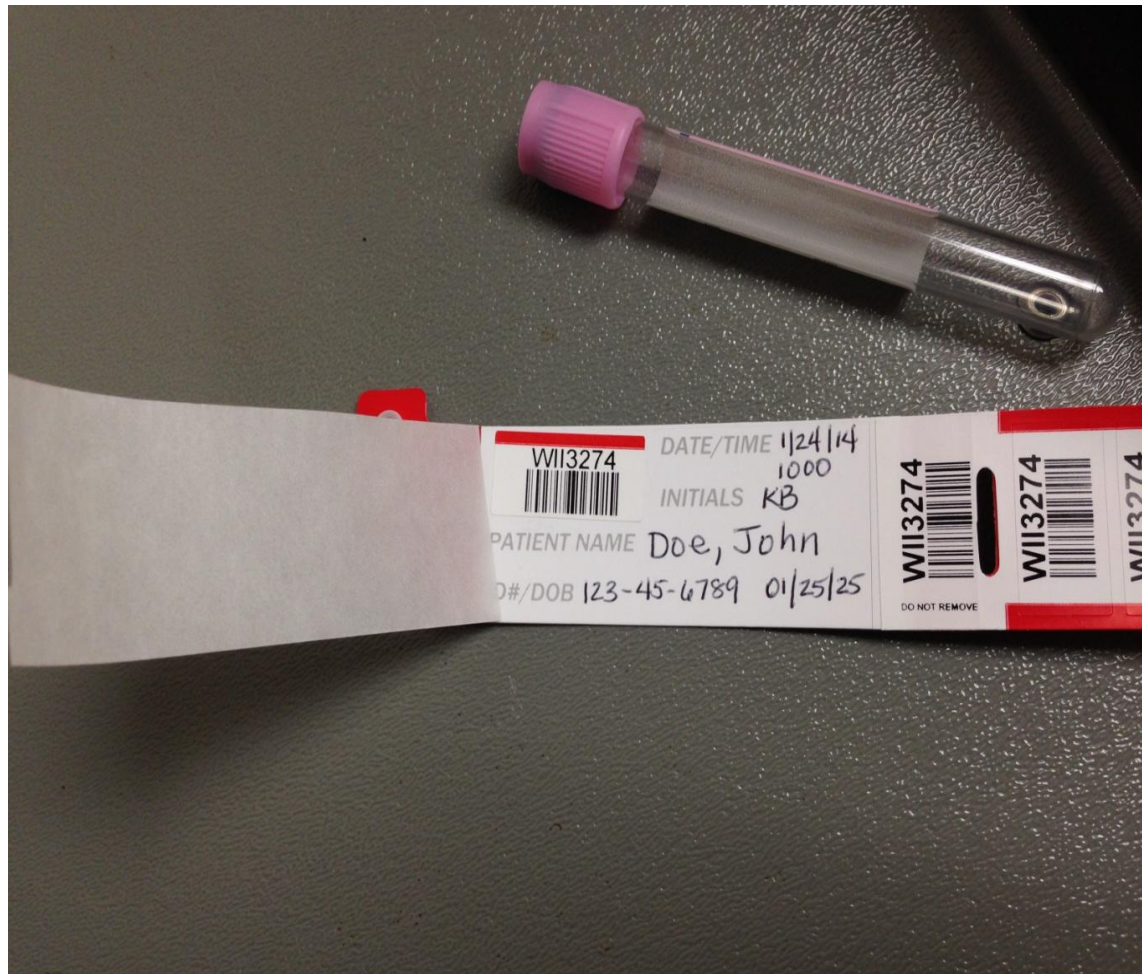
Step 1

- Crossmatches are preferably drawn in a 6.0ml pink top tube. A lavender may be used as an alternate.
- Perform appropriate bedside identification before drawing sample. Patient should state name and birth date. SS# should be verified.



Step 2

- Write the patient information over prompts on the band using a ballpoint pen.
- Include date/time of draw, initials of phlebotomist, patient's full name exactly as spelled, social security number, and date of birth.



Remember: labeling is always done at the patient's side!!!

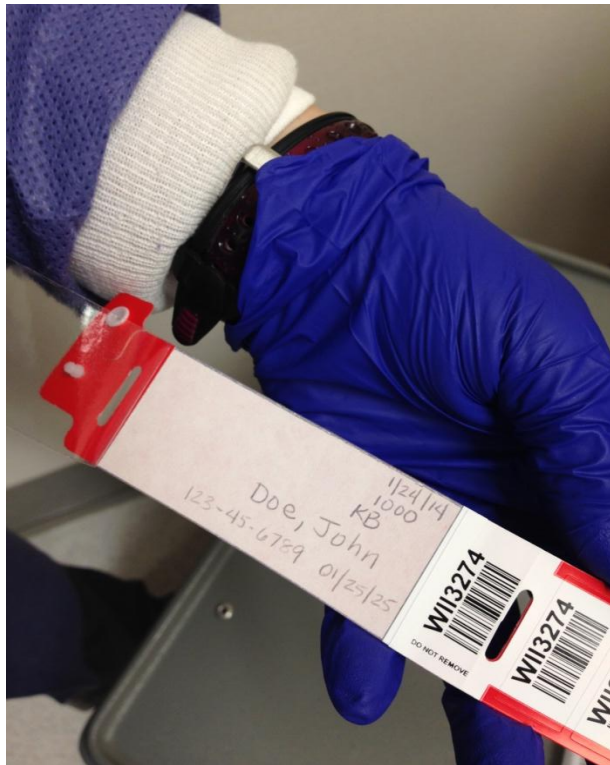
Step 3

- Peel off the top portion of the armband to use as a tube label for your sample.



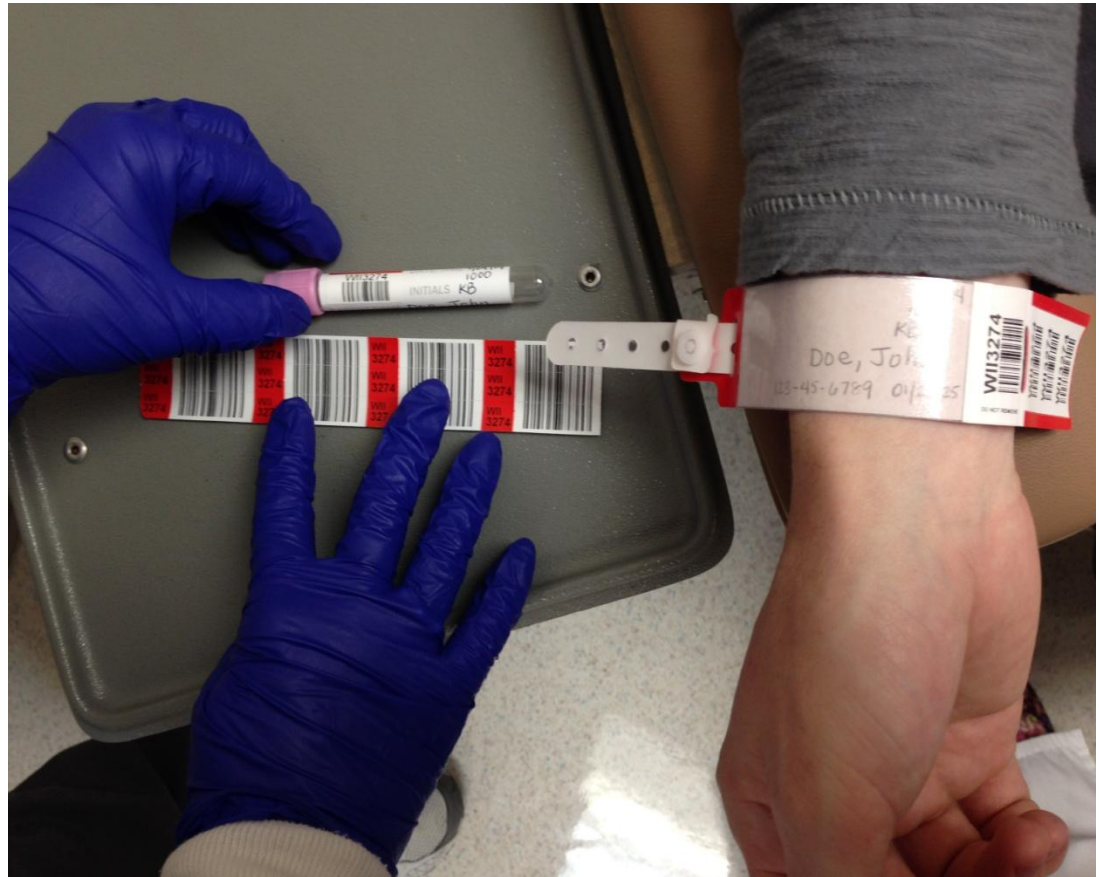
Step 4

- Peel the backing off of the plastic sheet and cover the patient information before banding the patient.
- The plastic cover will protect the patient information on the patient's armband until they return for transfusion.



Step 5

- Adjust the armband and fasten to the patient's wrist. Tear off additional barcode labels and send along with the sample to the blood bank.



Final step...

- After the patient's crossmatch is performed, the units are labeled with the additional barcoded labels. The unique barcoded number ties the patient, sample, and blood products together for proper identification.

