NewYork-Presbyterian

Labeling Laboratory Specimen Tubes

Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Properly placed barcode labels help clinical lab automated instrumentation process and analyze patient specimens accurately. Incorrectly applied labels may cause specimen rejection and delay the reporting of patient results.

***In the event of a printer downtime, immediately place a Service Desk ticket. Use demographic labels to properly label each specimen with a minimum of two patient identifiers including the patient's name and MRN or date of birth.

PLACING LABELS ON SPECIMEN TUBES

1 Place one barcode label on the appropriate tube type. Only **one** label is allowed per tube.

2 Affix the barcode label **flat and straight** on the specimen tube, covering the blank manufacturer label.

3 Make sure the laboratory accession number is **near the top of the tube**. If the barcode label is placed upside down or too low on the tube, the instrument will not be able to read it.

PROPERLY LABELED TUBES



Review the photo for examples of properly affixed barcode labels on specimen tubes.

IMPROPERLY LABELED TUBES

Review the photos below for examples of improperly labeled specimen tubes.



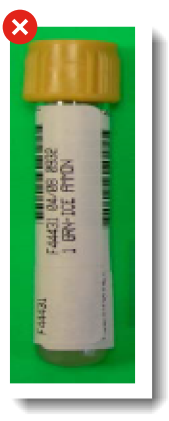
Label placed sideways



Label placed backwards and crooked



Label placed too low on tube



Two labels placed on tube overlapping one another



Label placed too close to the top of the tube



Label covers the manufacturer barcode label