

How to Label a Laboratory Specimen

Laboratory Tube Labels

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The Clinical Lab uses automated instrumentation to process and analyze patient specimens. These instruments require that a bar code label be affixed to the specimen tubes correctly or the samples will be rejected causing delays in reporting the results.

1. Place only one bar code label on the appropriate tube type and then place it in the specimen bag. **Do not** include the small label after the perforation. **Do not** use the aliquot label (ALIQ). The aliquot labels should be placed in the bag with the specimens.
2. The bar code label must be affixed to the specimen tube flat and straight covering the blank label on the tube that comes from the manufacturer. In this way the technologist can view the specimen volume without removing the label.
3. Make sure the Laboratory accession number is near the top of the tube. If the bar code label is placed up side down the instrument will not be able to read it.

Correctly Labeled Tubes



Label 1



Label 2



Label 3

Incorrectly Labeled Tubes



Label put on Sideways



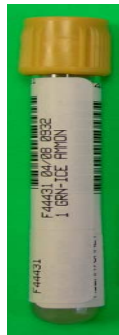
Label on Backwards and Crooked



Label Placed on Tube too close to the top



Label too Low on Tube



2 Labels Placed on Tube Overlapping One Other



Covering Manufactures Bar-code Label

Thank you for helping us to improve patient care.