

Specimen Labeling

SPECIMEN LABELING GUIDELINES

Improving the accuracy of patient identification is one of the National Patient Safety Goals as implemented by The Joint Commission (TJC) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP). This goal requires two identifiers on each patient specimen.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1** Specimens not labeled according to the requirements below will not be accepted for testing by our laboratory.
- 2** A client service representative will notify your office concerning any specimen labeling issues.

Before collection, verify each item of the patient's identity. Avoid distractions and interruptions. Concentrate solely on the labeling and handling process. Label all specimens immediately after collection. Complete all paperwork at the time the specimen is obtained from the patient. Print legibly and always label with indelible ink.

SPECIMEN LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Always label samples at the time of collection in the presence of the patient. Use a minimum of two patient identifiers on every sample submitted for testing. Required patient identifiers include Patient Full Legal Name (First and Last) AND at least one additional identifier:

- **Patient Date of Birth (DOB) or**
- **Social Security Number**

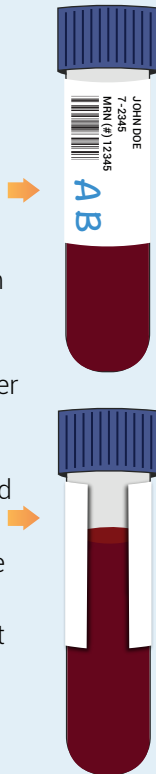
How to Properly Label Vials

Get it Straight. Reduce the Wait.

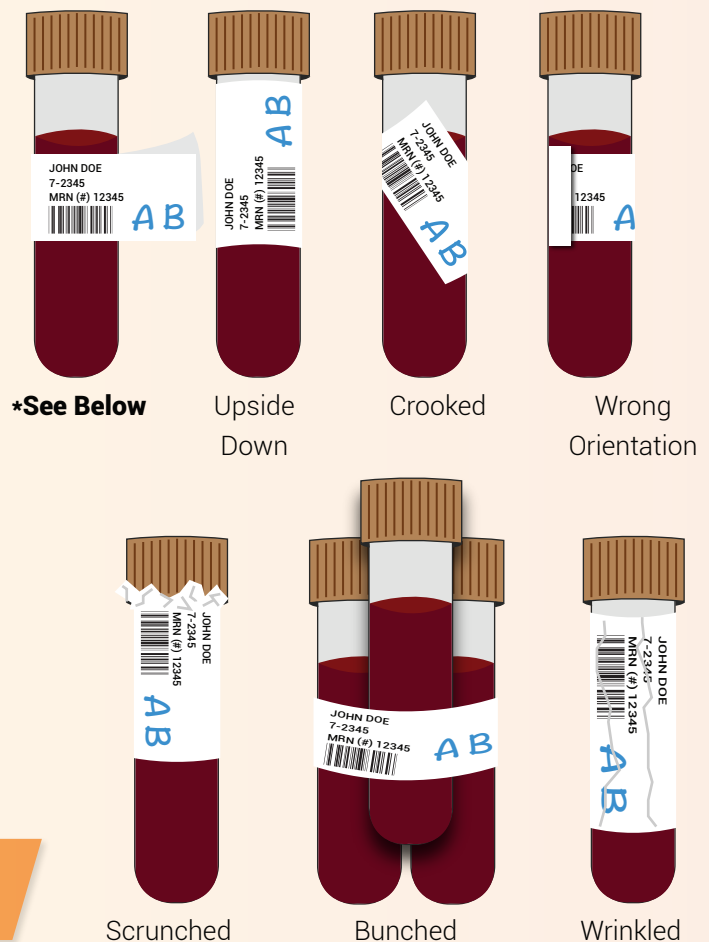
NOTE: Labels must be intact and readable.

Properly Labeled

- Place label directly under cap
- Name at the top of the tube
- Make sure initials (if added) do not interfere with bar code
- Barcode straight along the length of the tube
- Place label on top of manufacturer label
- Leave visible window to see blood
- Place only one label on each tube
- Send all extra labels in the pocket of the specimen bag



Unacceptable



NOTE: DOUBLE CHECK ALL LABELS BEFORE SENDING
Required patient info: Name and Date of Birth



***Only acceptable for Black Streck Vials**