

TriHealth Laboratories  
TriHealth Test Directory  
Specimen Labeling

## LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Please follow the instructions below carefully. If there is any question concerning the proper collection or labeling technique, please call the laboratory at 513-569-6345 or 513-569-6344.

To prevent the possibility of an adverse patient outcome resulting from a specimen mix-up or misidentification, **label all blood tubes and other specimen containers at the patient's side with the patient's:**

LABEL ON TUBE	Additional information
COMPLETE first and last names	No initials or nicknames. The name on the tubes and requisition must match EXACTLY
Date of Birth (preferable) or MRN	If using an MRN on a label, it must also be present on the laboratory requisition
Date and time of collection	

### BLOOD BANK EXCEPTION: ADDITIONAL LABELING REQUIREMENT

LABEL ON TUBE	Additional information
COMPLETE first and last names	No initials or nicknames. The name on the tubes and requisition must match EXACTLY
Date of Birth (preferable) or MRN	If using an MRN on a label, it must also be present on the laboratory requisition
Date and time of collection	
Collectors initials	If the potential to transfuse exists, this information MUST be included

**NOTE: Use a separate transport bag for each patient's specimens and requisitions. Do not combine several patients' specimens into one bag.**

Proper specimen collection, handling, labeling and transport are essential for accurate laboratory results. The Joint Commission, CMS, and the College of American Pathologists (CAP) have designated **positive patient and specimen identification** as a patient safety goal. These regulatory agencies require that at least **two patient identifiers** (neither being the patient's location) be used to label specimen collection containers in the presence of the patient. The use of two patient identifiers on all specimens will ensure accurate linkage of the patient, the specimen, and the test results.

## POLICY FOR MISLABELED SPECIMENS

TriHealth Laboratory Services cannot accept unlabeled or mislabeled samples. Recollection of the specimen will be required. This includes samples labeled with a patient's name but without a date of birth or other second identifier.

Mislabeled, unlabeled, or incompletely labeled specimens present potential serious harm to patients. Labeling errors can lead to possible serious misinterpretation of test results when specimens with similar identifying information enter an environment where thousands of specimens are handled each day and results must be accurately associated with your patient among the many.