

Specimen Labeling Requirements

To ensure the proper reporting of results, all specimens received for laboratory testing must be properly identified. Each specimen container must be identified and labeled with the following information.

Required for All Specimens

1. First and last name of the patient
2. Unique identifier for example -social security number, date of birth and/or requisition number
3. Type of anticoagulant or preservative (if applicable)

Along with the above, these are required for All Blood Bank Specimens

1. Name or initials of person collecting the specimen
2. Date and time of collection

Outpatients

All outpatients must be asked their complete name and birth date at the time of collection. This information must be compared to the requisition and discrepancies resolved before specimens are collected.

Referred Specimens

Specimens sent to Pathology Laboratory must be labeled to match the information on the accompanying requisition. The information must include the patient's first and last name, date and time the specimen was collected, name or initials of person collecting the specimen, and a unique identifying number such as social security number or requisition number.