Specimen Labeling/Handling

Specimens should only be collected following proper patient identification always using the patient’s full legal name and date of birth.

Request forms and specimens must match identically and be labeled with the patient’s full legal name (last, first) and date of birth on each. Please also include billing information when appropriate.

At a minimum, specimen containers must be labeled with patient’s last and first name, date of birth, collection date, collection time, and collector’s initials. When appropriate please also include the specimen source (for example “throat” on a swab from the throat.)

Specimens failing to meet the necessary labeling requirements may be subject to rejection.

The quality of the result is strictly dependent on the quality of the sample; to include specimen identification, patient preparation, collection, handling, storage, and transportation. Please adhere to the collection and handling instructions detailed under each test as well as the Policy QA10.001 Specimen Submission, Acceptance and Rejection.