



Salem Health Laboratories

CLIENT UPDATE **Patient Safety -Specimen Labeling**

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Proper identification of specimens is of paramount importance if test results are to be of value for patient care. We rely on you to provide high quality specimens through careful patient identification, preparation, collection, and packaging before transportation. For patient safety and protection of health care providers, we are providing this reminder of our established minimum labeling requirements. These requirements are:

Before collecting specimen(s) verify each item of the patient's identity. During collection, avoid distractions and interruptions. Focus solely on the labeling and specimen handling process. Label all specimens immediately upon collection. Complete all paperwork at the time of specimen collection.

- Print legibly and always label with indelible ink.
- Always include at least two patient identifiers. These include full patient legal name and at least one of the following other identifiers.
 - Patient's date of birth (DOB).
 - Number label from the lab requisition. (The requisition label alone does not meet the minimum labeling requirement).

Unlabeled or inadequately labeled lab specimens will not be accepted. We will store inappropriate specimens in the laboratory until you are notified and requested to recollect the specimen.

For your patient's safety, we thank you for your cooperation in complying with these specimen labeling requirements.

Your partners in patient care,

Salem Health Laboratories