Specimen Labeling - Minimum Requirements for Clinical Specimens

Patient information

1. Full first and last name
   or coded confidential name **or** temporary identification for unidentified hospital patients

   and

2. Unique identifier that exactly matches the requisition
   (one of the below listed in order of preference)
   - Personal healthcare number (PHN) **or**
   - Unique lifetime identifier (ULI) **or**
   - Personal identification number such as Federal, Military, RCMP, Refugee, Immigration, Passport **or**
   - Facility assigned number such as Hospital, Clinic or Laboratory assigned number.

   Exceptions:
   Slides require only full first and last name written in lead pencil or insoluble ink.

   In the Edmonton zone, **only** ULI is acceptable for pretransfusion testing including crossmatch, type and screen, or draw and hold.

If any of the above are missing, incomplete or illegible the request will be rejected.
All specimens must be accompanied by a completed requisition.

3. Specific specimens may require additional information to be acceptable.
   Examples:
   - Pathology, cytology, microbiology and genetic requests require exact specimen type and site, if applicable.
   -Timed collection requests require date and time of collection.
   - Pretransfusion requests require a collection specific identifier called a blood bank identification number, date and time of collection.

Use of laboratory information system (LIS) generated labels
- Incomplete name on truncated label is acceptable if two other unique identifiers are present and exactly match on the requisition and specimen label. For example, (1) PHN & (2) accession number with collection date and time.

Exception:
Full first and last name must be readable on the specimen (hand written or hospital label) in addition to an LIS label for all transfusion medicine (blood bank) requests. For example, pretransfusion tests, blood typing, DAT.