

WINK

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW

A WINK WILL MAKE YOU THINK.....

Patient Identification
And
Specimen Labeling

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure patient safety, the learner will be able to state the process for using three patient identifiers.
2. To ensure patient safety, the learner will be able to state the proper specimen labeling steps including “match the visible characters” and the proper technique to apply the labels to the tube/container.
3. The learner will be able to state the use and process for waste tubes.

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION AND SPECIMEN LABELING

- ⦿ This **WINK** should be completed by:
 - All clinical personnel responsible for collecting and labeling specimens submitted for laboratory testing (RNs, CPs, EMTs, RTs, Phlebotomists).
 - All laboratory personnel responsible for processing and labeling specimens in the laboratory.

PATIENT ID PROCESS

- For specimen collection, properly identify the patient by using the **three** identifiers: patient name, date of birth **and** medical record number.

How?

- **Ask** the patient to tell you their name and date of birth (DOB)
 - If unable to speak, family member or friend can verify.
 - If no one present, use the patient's armband to verify **all 3** identifiers.
 - For NICU, Newborn Nursery and pediatric patients, **always** verify the 3 identifiers.

PATIENT ID PROCESS (CON'T)

- ◉ **Match** the patient's verbal information with the patient's name and date of birth on the identification band.
- ◉ **Verify** patient's name (visible characters of the name), date of birth, and MR# on the hospital band, matches what is printed on the label.
- ◉ **DO NOT** proceed with collection if there is a discrepancy.

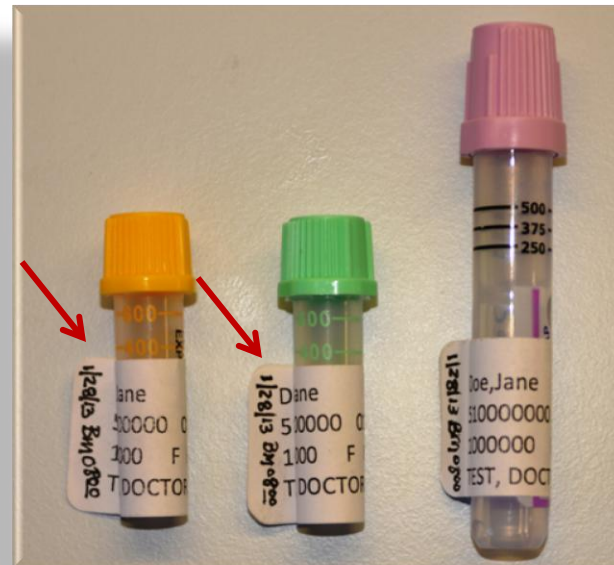
PROPER LABELING OF BLOOD TUBES

- ◉ To ensure patient safety, it is very important to label the specimen tubes properly, especially blood samples.
- ◉ Here are some Tips:
 - “Show Your Colors”
 - Use the colored sidebar as your guide, position the patient label on the tube leaving the colored sidebar exposed
 - Write date, time of collection and your initials
 - Label while at the bedside, in the presence of the patient



PROPER LABELING OF MICROTAINER® TUBES

- Due to the small size of the Microtainer blood tubes, placement of label will differ from the regular blood tubes.
- Here are some Tips:
 - Fold label across tube, like a flag, as close to the bottom of the tube as possible.
 - Write date, time of collection and your initials.
 - Label specimen at the patient's bedside.



PROPER LABELING OF SPECIMEN CONTAINERS

- ◉ To ensure patient safety, it is very important to label the specimen containers properly, including **source**.
- ◉ Here are some Tips:
 - Place label on the container, never on the lid.
 - Write date, time of collection and your initials.
 - Write specimen type on the label. Include Right / Left designation if appropriate.
 - Label the specimen while at the patient's bedside, in the presence of the patient.



Urine



Pleural Fluid



Renal Cyst Fluid

CLEAR CAP WASTE TUBE

- When collecting blood samples from central lines, draw and waste as follows:
 - Withdraw and discard a minimum of
 - 2mL for routine blood work
 - 6mL for coagulation studies
 - Utilize the clear cap tube to collect the discard volume. Do not send waste tube to the laboratory; discard as biohazardous waste.



LABORATORY STAFF

- When receiving RN collected specimens:
 - Match 3 identifiers on tube label, Horizon Screen and barcode Label
 - Patient name
 - Date of birth
 - Medical record number
 - Verify appropriate tube type or specimen type
 - Verify test order date and collection date match

LABORATORY STAFF

- ◉ When preparing aliquot tubes, verify:
 - Appropriate tube type or specimen type
 - Appropriate date and time of collection
 - Patient's name
 - Patient's date of birth (DOB)
 - Medical Record number
- ◉ Label aliquot tube/container with appropriate barcode label
- ◉ Initial the aliquot label

SUMMARY

- Patient identification is an active process of:
 - ASK, MATCH, VERIFY: confirm information provided by patient matches armband **AND** compare label to armband; ensure the name, DOB and MR# on the armband matches the label.
- To prevent errors, proper specimen labeling is crucial. Remember to:
 - Label in the presence of the patient.
 - On the patient label, write the date and time of collection, **source of the specimen** (if other than blood) and your initials.
 - Don't forget to **SHOW YOUR COLORS** when applying the label on the tube of blood.
- Utilize the clear cap waste tube to dispose of **blood drawn from central lines**.

REFERENCES

- ◉ SMH IP 2141 Collection and Labeling of Specimens Intended for Laboratory Testing
- ◉ SMH IP 2263 Intravenous Therapy - Central Lines (Vascular Access Devices)
- ◉ SMH IP 2344 Two (2) Patient Identifiers