

OUTREACH SPECIMEN LABELING REQUIREMENTS

REMINDER: Beaumont Laboratory requires **two identifiers** for **all** specimens submitted for testing at any Beaumont laboratory.

Why are we requiring this?

It's a matter of patient safety. Every day, specimens are received with crack and peel label only; without a patient name; labeling that does not match the requisition; or no labeling at all. Improperly labeled or unlabeled specimens cause delays in receiving your test results and may lead to medical errors in patient diagnosis and treatment.

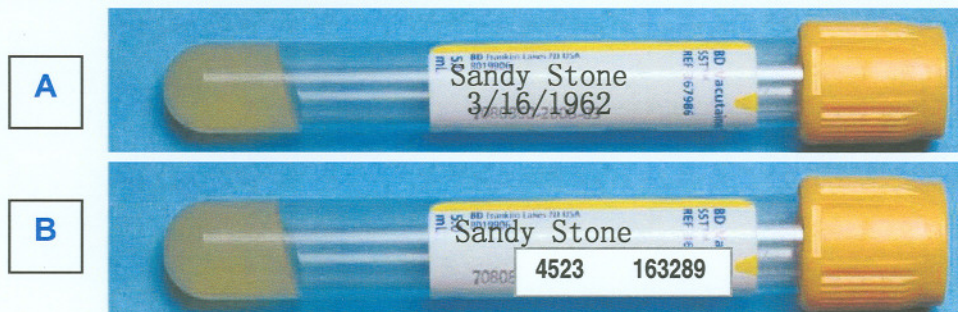
Reference: The Joint Commission, National Patient Safety goals, NPSG 1 - Patient Identification, Two Patient Identifiers

What are the consequences if specimens are not labeled correctly?

Effective **January 1, 2010**, specimens that are **not** correctly labeled **will be discarded**, with the exception of those specimen types classified as "irretrievable" (e.g., fresh tissue, bone marrow, products of conception, biopsy, FNA, or any fluids including amniotic, CSF, synovial).

What are the acceptable identifiers?

- **Patient's Full Name** (handwritten clearly)
- **Birth Date** (handwritten clearly – example **A** below)
- **Crack and Peel Label** (for specimens submitted with a Beaumont Laboratory Outreach requisition form – example **B** below)
- **Patient Identification** (patient's Beaumont ID number or last 4 digits of SSN)



Are there any additional labeling requirements?

Yes, there are additional labeling requirements for the following specimens:

- **Drug Levels** – should indicate peak/trough and time of draw
- **Blood Cultures** – indicate number of culture (#1, #2, #3, etc.) and time of collection
- **Glucose Tolerance Test** – indicate fasting, 1 hr, 2hr, etc.
- **Blood Bank** (pink EDTA tubes for ABO, Rh and antibody screens):
 - Patient's Full Name (first and last; spelled correctly and written clearly);
 - Crack and Peel Label - OR - Patient's Beaumont ID number; **AND**
 - **Date of Collection**

Effective Date: November 11, 2009

Submitted by: **Mark D. Kolins, MD**, Chief Laboratory Medical Executive, Beaumont Laboratory

Beaumont Laboratory Outreach
1-800-551-0488