

Labeling Guidelines for Hemoglobin and Blood Lead Specimens

Labeling Guidelines

Label the specimen clearly, using the patient's full name as it appears on the Medicaid card. Unidentified or improperly labeled specimens will not be tested.

All primary specimen containers must be clearly and legibly labeled with at least two patient-specific identifiers.

The two identifiers on the specimen submission form must match exactly with the two identifiers on the specimen tube.

Preferred Labeling of MAP and Vacutainer Blood Collection Tubes

- Use a sticky-back label no larger than 1-inch x 1.5 inches.
- Use an Extra Fine Point permanent marker, clearly write patient's name, date of birth, and date of collection
- Apply label to blood collection tube, leaving the expiration date on the label visible for laboratory review. Place edge of label on the vertical lavender stripe and wrap securely around the tube.

List of Acceptable Patient Identifiers and Proper Labeling

- Patient Name
- Date of Birth
- Medicaid Number
- Medical Record Number
- Unique Random Number



Mail or ship specimens on the same day they are collected or the next day.

Improper Labeling

Labels

- Wrapped improperly around the tube
- Longer than the length of the tube

