



CLS Requires Two Identifiers on Doctor/Nurse Collected Specimens

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To ensure patient safety, specimens must be uniquely identified. This minimizes the possibility of specimen mix-ups and/or misidentification. Specimens received in the laboratory must be labelled with the patient's first and last name **as well as a second identifier**, such as personal healthcare number, medical record number, or date of birth.

In the interests of patient safety as well as good laboratory practice, effective February 1, 2007, CLS will be strictly enforcing the requirement for identifiers, and rejecting specimens collected by physicians and nurses that are not clearly labelled with the patient's name and a second identifier.

Specimens for Microbiology testing are expected to be among those most affected by the strengthening of CLS specimen acceptance and rejection practices.

Exceptions will be made for certain precious specimens, such as those obtained from operative procedures.

More detailed information about CLS specimen labelling requirements and specimen acceptance and rejection policies and procedures can be found on the CLS website.

www.calgarylabservices.com/HealthcareProfessionals/SpecimenCollection/SpecimenRejection