

Patient Safety ALERT – Blood Sampling

Incorrect labelling of blood samples is dangerous and wastes time.

The laboratory receives a significant number of specimens labelled with the wrong patient details.

Frequently, these are samples labelled with either addressograph or other pre-printed labels.

This could result in a transfusion of incompatible blood, incorrect diagnosis, and / or medication prescription.

To minimise this occurrence please follow the procedure –

***LABEL SPECIMENS AT THE BEDSIDE, AND
DO NOT GIVE SPECIMENS TO SOMEONE ELSE TO
LABEL.***

Use of addressograph or other pre-printed labels discourages compliance with this procedure.

Therefore unless you are in the E.D. (this is being reviewed separately) please do not use any form of pre printed label on specimens.