

SPECIMEN LABELING AND REJECTION POLICY

All mislabeled *retrievable* specimens will be rejected for testing. The client will be notified that the specimen has been rejected due to mislabeling and will be asked to recollect the specimen. Mislabeled *irretrievable* specimens will be held to minimize sample degradation while the labeling issue is being resolved. In the event of a mislabeled irretrievable specimen, a pathologist will speak with the ordering clinician and the “irretrievable specimen identification discrepancy form” will be completed. This form must be signed by the ordering provider before the specimen is processed. Please see the table below for definitions of retrievable and irretrievable specimens.

Proper specimen identification and labeling is a critical component of guaranteeing patient safety and providing high quality care in a clinical laboratory setting. All specimens, including all clinical and anatomic specimens, must be labeled with the patient’s **full first and last name** and at least one other unique patient identifier such as date of birth, patient medical record number/clinic account number, or requisition number. **Initials and nicknames will not be accepted.** It is strongly recommended that all anatomic pathology specimens also have the date of collection and tissue source listed on the specimen container. Please note that these do not count as unique identifiers. It is also strongly recommended that the date of collection is listed on all clinical specimens. **Please note that the information provided on the requisition and specimen must be identical.**

Retrievable specimens <i>(easily recollected from the patient without incurring harm and the recollected specimen is diagnostically equivalent to the original)</i>	Irretrievable specimens <i>(cannot be easily recollected from the patient, recollection of the specimen may negatively impact patient care, or the recollected specimen is not diagnostically equivalent to the original)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throat swabs including nasopharyngeal swabs • Urine • Stool • Sputum • Blood (non-pediatric collections) • Arterial blood (drawn from arterial line) • Semen analysis • Nipple discharge if able to recollect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebrospinal fluid • Body fluids (non-urine) • Cord blood • Bone marrow • Wound cultures • Operating room cultures • Cultures taken before initiation of antibiotics • Arterial blood drawn from wrist • Anatomic pathology specimens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biopsy ○ Resections ○ Pap smears ○ Fine needle aspirations