

Client Alert

Topics: Specimen Labeling Requirements (UPDATED)

Effective Date: May 2022

To assure standardized labeling practices and ensure patient safety, please note the following requirements to assure a positive 2-point patient identification for any non-Blood Bank samples referred to Avera McKennan laboratory for testing (Blood Bank specimens have unique requirements, as noted on page 2):

❖ **All specimens must have appropriate patient identification**

- Unlabeled specimens will be rejected.
- Specimens may be labeled with patient stickers as long as all required information is present.
- Any specimens with labeling discrepancies that do not allow a positive 2-point patient identification will be held for further investigation.

❖ **All testing must have a written or electronic request**

❖ **Minimum specimen labeling includes:**

- Patient full name (Last Name, First Name, MI if known)
- Unique patient identifier (MR#, SS# or DOB) – must match identifier used on test order/requisition
- Specimen source (fluids, swabs, biopsies)
- Meditech mnemonic of person collecting specimen (required for Avera sites)
 - *Non-Avera sites may use initials or name of person collecting specimen.*

❖ **Other required information as noted below may be present on the requisition or electronic order (not required on the sample tube/container):**

- Patient gender
- Patient date of birth (if specimen is labeled with an alternate unique identifier)
- Date and time of sample collection
- Test(s) to be performed
- Ordering provider
- Complete patient billing information if ALN-SF will be billing, including diagnosis for each ordered test, and diagnostic linking and medical necessity documentation (as applicable for Medicare billing).

(See next page for Blood Bank labeling requirements)

Avera Laboratory Network – SF (ALNSF)
Required Labeling for Blood Bank Testing

Tests for which Blood Bank labeling requirements apply:

ABO & Rh Type	Antibody screen	Antibody Identification
Direct Antiglobulin Testing (DAT)	OB Panels	Type & Screen
Type & Crossmatch	Antibody Titer	Kleihauer Betke

Specimen Labeling Requirements:

The following information is determined to be **MANDATORY** to allow a 3-point positive patient identification for all blood bank specimens and requisitions:

- ❖ Patient Full name (Last Name, First Name, & MI if known)
- ❖ Patient Date of Birth
- ❖ Unique identifier or facility permanent identification number (refer to specifics listed below)
- ❖ Date/Time Specimen Collected
- ❖ Phlebotomist initials

Unique Patient Identification Number/Date of Birth:

For ALNSF outreach blood bank testing, the facility must assign a number that is considered the unique patient identification number. This unique patient identification number must be present on both the specimen tube submitted for testing and on the requisition.

The patient's date of birth allows a complete blood bank patient historical verification on previous testing that has been performed on this patient within the ALNSF system. This historical verification assists with identifying potential specimen collection and testing errors.

Special Hand Labeling Requirement for Transfusion-Related Testing:

(Type & Screen, Type & Crossmatch, Antibody ID, and/or Crossmatch only testing):

- ❖ Blood bank specimens drawn for the possibility of transfusion of blood products must be **hand labeled directly on the tube in the presence of the patient.**
- ❖ If Avera McKennan is performing the compatibility testing, the specimen must contain a second set of initials of the person verifying the patient identification.
- ❖ **Specimens labeled with only a computer generated specimen label will not be accepted for testing.** The specimen submitted will be discarded and the patient will need to be redrawn and labeled appropriately for testing.

Non-Transfusion Related Testing:

Computer generated specimen labels may be used for labeling blood bank specimens that are not submitted for transfusion-related testing. Computer labels **must include** all required information as identified above. Information not on the computer label may be hand-written on the specimen.

This testing includes:

- ❖ OB Panel
- ❖ DAT
- ❖ ABO/RH Type (ordered as non-transfusion related testing)
- ❖ Antibody Titer
- ❖ Kleihauer Betke

Special Note:

All labeling on the specimen tube(s) must be identical to the patient information on the requisition. If discrepancies exist, testing will not be performed until the client has been contacted and the discrepancy resolved. Specimen labeling or requisition discrepancies that do not allow positive patient identification (<3 point positive ID and discrepancy is not straightforward omission or clerical/transcription error) will require that the specimen be discarded and testing will not be performed. Examples of obvious omission/clerical errors include: letter inversion in names –Nielsen/Neilsen; common suffix misspelling – Nielsen/Nielson; date of birth or ID number 1 digit variance; shortened name – Barbara/Barb or Thomas/Tom.