

TWO PATIENT SPECIMEN IDs REQUIRED FOR TESTING

WHAT'S NEW?

All St. Charles laboratories require two patient identifiers on all specimens for laboratory testing. When specimens are received in the laboratory without proper identification, your office will be notified to schedule a recollect with your patient. A new specimen with the correctly labeled identifying information will need to be submitted. Specimens without at least two patient identifiers will not be accepted for laboratory testing (see examples).

WHY?

Correct patient identification is critical to timely, appropriate, and most importantly, safe patient care. Unique patient identifiers are essential for accurate patient diagnosis and treatment as well as billing, insurance and record keeping. Many patients have name similarities. Labeling laboratory specimens with two patient identifiers is necessary to correctly identify your patients. Improving the accuracy of patient identification is one of the National Patient Safety Goals implemented by The Joint Commission and the College of American Pathologists.

IDENTIFIERS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE SPECIMEN CONTAINER AND REQUISITION, AND THEY MUST MATCH EXACTLY.

HOW TO

- Always label specimens at the time of collection and in the presence of the patient.
- A minimum of two unique patient identifiers are required on each specimen label and laboratory requisition/order.

THE TWO IDENTIFIERS ARE:

1. Patient's legal first and last name
2. Your choice of any of the following:
 - Date of birth
 - Medical record number
 - Lab requisition number/order number



Standard Requisition

PATIENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT IN BLACK INK)	
1 Pt Last Name	First M I
Address	2 Birth Date Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
City	Pt. SS#
State ZIP	Home Phone
Employer	Work Phone

Effective July 1, 2015 all specimens not labeled properly will be rejected.