

# Labeling of Laboratory Specimens

## Routine Specimens

1. Print all labels with the following information:
  - Patient's full name (last name followed by a comma, legal first name, and, if available, middle initial).
  - Date of birth, Social Security Number (SSN) or Medical Record Number.
  - Name of ordered test(s) – if not preprinted on label.
  - Date and time the specimen was collected (use 24-hour clock time expression whenever possible).
  - Identification of the person obtaining the specimen (usually printed initials or employees ID number).
2. Attach barcode label or specimen identification number from the requisition to the back or bottom of the container.



## Blood Cultures

3. Apply the patient identification label vertically on the blood culture bottle.
4. Do not cover the bar code on the blood culture bottle label.
5. Transfer any specimen collection comments written on the label to the test requisition.
6. Ensure that each cytology sample is labeled with **two** unique identifiers.
7. Label each cytology specimen container with the Control Number sticker from the Cytology Requisition or other unique patient identifier (ex. unique medical record number or birthdate).
8. Write the full patient name on the line provided on the specimen container in pen.
9. Ensure that each histology sample is labeled with **two** unique identifiers.
  - For outpatient specimens, a numbered sticker from the surgical requisition can be used with patient name for identification.
  - Other acceptable unique identifiers are unique medical record number or birthdate.
10. Label each specimen container with full patient name. If multiple portions of tissue from the same source are submitted, each must receive *a numerical designation to reflect its distinct identity within the specimen series.*

<b>9083460</b>
<b>NAME</b> <u>Smith, Mary Q.</u>
<b>SPECIMEN</b> <u>Liver Biopsy</u>
<b>DATE</b> <u>08/10/16</u> #1 of 3

## Cytology Specimens

## Histology Specimens