

PHLEBOTOMY AND LABELING INSTRUCTIONS

For Clients that collect specimens from their patients in their facility, proper collection and handling of those specimens is essential to maintain their integrity.

Phlebotomists need to be reminded that:

- Specimens are to be collected and labeled one patient at a time to avoid misidentification.
- Clear identification of specimens using at least 2 unique identifiers will ensure a test result is attributed to the correct person.
- Vacutainers are drawn in the correct order. This will prevent cross-contamination that may lead to inaccurate results or contaminated blood cultures.
- The correct number of tubes and appropriate tube types are collected for the required tests.
- Proper mixing of each tube is essential to prevent delay or incomplete clotting or platelet clumping.
- They need to record on the requisition the time and date of collection.
- They need to record their initials on the requisition in the top left hand corner.

For detailed test handling requirements, visit our web site www.lifelabs.com. Look for 'Healthcare Clients – Ontario' and click on 'Test Information Directory'

It is important to include **relevant clinical information** on specimen requisition forms, allowing the laboratory to appropriately process and report results on submitted specimens. The table below summarizes essential clinical information related to commonly ordered tests.

Test	Essential Clinical Information
Microbiology All specimens Wound Swabs/Sterile Sites/Chlamydia Parasitology Blood cultures Genital	Pregnancy status, immune status, antibiotic allergies, previous failed antibiotic treatments, present antibiotic treatment, if applicable Body site Travel history, immune status Prolonged incubation time required, if applicable (i.e., endocarditis, Brucellosis, fever unknown origin) Vaginal, cervical or rectovaginal site
Hematology Heparin Lymphocyte markers (Flow Cytometry)	Type and name of heparin administered Complete LifeLabs "Request for Lymphocyte Marker Analysis By Flow Cytometry" Form with clinical diagnosis included
Molecular Diagnostics Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	PAP smear history of ASCUS
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Aminoglycosides/Vancomycin Other TDM	Peak/Trough collection, if applicable, time since last dose Time since last dose

For Inquires, contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre 1-877-849-3637