

Patient Identification

The sample collector must verify the patient's identity prior to collection. When requesting patient information, the collector must solicit a verbal response by asking open-ended questions that cannot be answered with yes or no.

The patient must be asked to verbally state their full first and last name and their date of birth. The identifiers provided must match the patient's BC Services card (or other trusted identity document), the requisition, and sample label(s). Any discrepancies must be resolved prior to sample collection.

Sample Labeling

Each sample submitted to LifeLabs for testing must be **unequivocally** traceable to the patient from which it was collected.

Samples must be labeled at the time of collection and in the presence of the patient. The specimen label must contain at least **2 patient identifiers** which match the identifiers on the accompanying requisition.

- The patient's full name (first name and last name) is always required and is the first identifier.
- The second identifier may be one of the following:
 - Date of Birth (Day-Month-Year)
 - Personal Health Number (PHN)

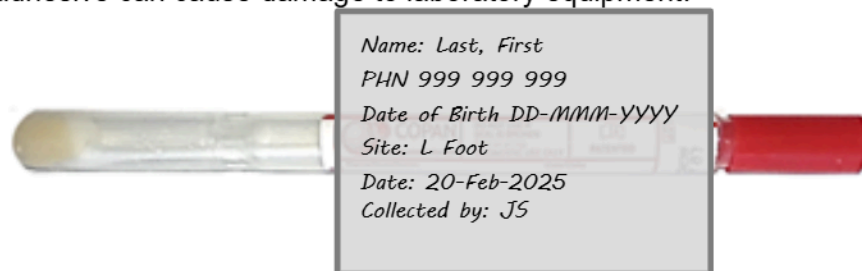
The following are **not** acceptable identifiers:

- Initials or partial names
- Location-based identifiers (chart number, room number)

In addition to patient identifiers, the following information is also required on the sample label:

- Date and Time of collection
- Anatomical site (for microbiology samples)
- Initials/identification of sample collector

If sample labels are handwritten, print **legibly** using a ballpoint pen (not a felt marker). If using printed adhesive labels, ensure they do not extend past the edge of the specimen container or tube as the adhesive can cause damage to laboratory equipment.



The following specimen labeling errors will result in specimen rejection:

- Specimen is received unlabeled, incompletely labeled, or illegibly labeled.
- The identifiers on the specimen label do not match the identifiers on the accompanying requisition.

Source: CLSI. *Patient and Laboratory Specimen Identification Processes*. 1st ed. CLSI standards PRE01. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2024.