Specimen Labeling - Minimum Requirements for Clinical Specimens

Patient information
1. Full first and last name
   or coded confidential name or temporary identification for unidentified hospital patients
   and

2. Unique identifier that exactly matches the requisition
   (one of the below listed in order of preference)
   o Personal healthcare number (PHN) or
   o Unique lifetime identifier (ULI) or
   o Personal identification number such as Federal, Military, RCMP, Refugee, Immigration, Passport or
   o Facility assigned number such as Hospital, Clinic or Laboratory assigned number.

Exception:
In the Edmonton zone, only Alberta unique lifetime identifier (ULI) or Alberta personal healthcare number (PHN) is acceptable for pretransfusion testing including crossmatch, type and screen, or draw and hold.

If any of the above is missing, incomplete or illegible the request may be rejected or testing delayed. All specimens must be accompanied by a completed requisition.

3. Specific specimens may require additional information to be acceptable.
   Examples:
   - Pathology, cytology, microbiology and genetic requests require exact specimen type and site, if applicable.
   - Timed collection requests require date and time of collection.
   - Pretransfusion requests require a collection specific identifier called a blood bank identification number, date and time of collection.

Use of laboratory information system (LIS) generated labels
- Incomplete name on truncated label is acceptable if two other unique identifiers are present and exactly match on the requisition and specimen label. For example, (1) Personal healthcare number/unique lifetime identifier (PHN/ULI) & (2) accession number with collection date and time.

Exception:
Full first and last name must be readable on the specimen (hand written or hospital label) in addition to an LIS label for all transfusion medicine (blood bank) requests. For example, pretransfusion tests, blood typing, direct antiglobulin test (DAT).