



Reminder: Cytology and Histology Specimen Labeling Instructions

Offering our clients state-of-the-art testing is part of CPL's ongoing commitment to excellence.

CPL requests that all cytology and histology specimen containers be labeled with 2 patient identifiers at the time of collection. In clinical practice, patient safety protocols require a minimum of 2 patient identifiers to be used to definitively identify and match patient information. This practice is required for all primary specimen containers and submitted slides.

Specimen containers should be labeled with:

- Full patient name (both first and last name)
- A second identifier such as Date of Birth (DOB), hospital or clinic number, patient ID number, accession number, requisition number, or any other unique number for the patient
- Source of specimen must be noted on the specimen container and/or submitted slides

Slides and/or smears submitted with patient material affixed should be labeled in pencil with:

- Patient full name
- Specimen source or site
- If preparing both fixed and unfixed (air-dried) slides, mark the slides accordingly with clear indication of the air-dried (unfixed) slides

The primary specimen container is the innermost container received by the laboratory that actually holds the specimen, such as a tissue vial or slide.

- Patient's correctly spelled first and last name
- Patient's date of birth
- Patient ID number, if applicable
- Hospital, clinic or accession number, if applicable
- Account name, address, phone, and account number
- Requesting physician's name
- Source of specimen corresponding to specimen container
- Note: If multiple tissue specimens are collected on the on same patient – ensure the specimens are listed on the requisition in order and the containers correlate with the requisition (A, B, C). A source should be listed for each specimen.
- Patient clinical history

Proper sample identification is critical to specimen integrity from the time of collection, to laboratory processing, testing and result reporting.

Thank you for supporting Clinical Pathology Laboratories