

Lab Label Misalignment & Patient Identifier Verification

INTRODUCTION

Labs are being set to lab missing patient identifiers, incorrect identifiers, or barcodes.

- **ALL laboratory specimens MUST have two identifiers.**
- **Specimens for Transfusion Services (Blood Bank) must clearly contain full patient legal name, DOB, and full MRN.**

SITUATION

The Clinical Labs are receiving blood samples with missing an/or incorrect patient identifiers. Labels are printing missing a name or barcode, or mismatch patient identifiers from bedside label and laboratory label.

BACKGROUND

Multiple safety events have been entered across multiple units over the past week related to missing patient identifiers. Nursing staff must sign release forms for non-transfusion related specimens, and laboratory staff must document and enter in event in PSR system.

ASSESSMENT

Missing identifiers occur due to two reasons:

- Misalignment of printers
- Improper double check of patient identifiers

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **DO NOT** pull off lab labels. Carefully rip to keep alignment (tearing upward instead of downward). Failure to do so causes the next label to advance too far, and the next label will be misaligned/ cutoff.
2. Nursing must check to make sure each lab label has **two patient identifiers and a barcode**. If you print a label and it does not have a **patient name, DOB, and barcode** - **PLEASE REPRINT!** **Double check** the labels before placing on the tubes!
3. If a printer is misaligned, **click the FEED button** (Images below)
4. If it persists, call the help desk or submit a ticket for field services if a reprint and clicking the feed button does not resolve the issue.

ZD410



ZQ610



Examples of **Unacceptable** Laboratory Specimen Labeling

Missing 2 (TWO) Identifiers or Cut Off Labels

