

Incomplete Surgical Pathology Specimen Labels

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Introduction

(Why is this important?)

- All patient specimens are to be labeled with the correct laboratory Beaker label which contains two, complete patient identifiers.

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Situation

(What is the current situation?)

- Surgical Pathology is receiving specimens with labels that are missing complete patient identifiers, incorrect labels, or incomplete barcodes.

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Background

(What is important to know about the background?)

- Two patient identifiers are necessary to confirm the patient's identity and ensure the correct testing is being completed.
- Incomplete labels create extra work for the laboratory team to get a new, correct label.
- A bedside label is not an acceptable fix.

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Assessment

*(What is the evaluation?)
(Could include costs, risks, etc.)*

- Missing identifiers occur due to some of these reasons:
 - Misalignment of labels in the printer
 - Improper double check of patient identifiers
 - Rushing

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Recommendation

(What actions need to take place?)

- 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
- If a printer is misaligned, click the feed button and **print again**
- If the misalignment persists, call or Teams Shane Stefanchik at 380-283-3572

