

Hunterdon Medical Center Laboratory Specimen Rejection Criteria

To reduce erroneous data derived from specimens that were improperly labeled, collected or handled, the Laboratory is required to reject:

1. All unlabeled blood, urine containers and other specimen containers.
 2. Specimens lacking two patient identifiers:
 - In patient:
 - Name, first and last
 - Medical record number (MRN)
 - Outpatient:
 - Name, first and last
 - Medical record number (MRN) or date of birth
- Note:** date and time of collection as well as initials of person collecting the specimen are important aspects of the collection and assist in assessing the viability of the specimen.
3. Incompletely labeled specimens for the testing by the Blood Bank:
 - All blood specimens are accompanied by a request for cross match
 - Must include the patient's full name, medical record number, date of specimen collection.
 - Must be initialed by the person collecting the blood specimen.
 4. The name on the specimen does not correspond with the name on the request slip:
 - These situations may be resolved, if the specimen is labeled correctly.
 5. Specimens which have been improperly stored or are too old to perform an accurate analysis.
 6. If the quantity of blood, urine, sputum or specimen is insufficient to provide satisfactory results
e.g. incompletely filled tubes for coagulation testing <90% filled
 7. Specimen inappropriate for analysis requested
e.g. clotted blood for CBC, Blood Gases, Lead
 8. Specimens collected in the wrong collection container, or timed specimens not appropriately collected.
 9. Certain specimens may be deemed as irreplaceable specimens such as:
 - This is a representative, but not all inclusive list:
 - Surgical Specimens
 - CSF
 - Blood specimens on newborns/children
- The Laboratory will notify the appropriate responsible staff member. Identification of the specimen will be allowed in these circumstances. A disclaimer will be included in the final report to indicate that the specimen was received unlabeled or mislabeled.
10. The unit or office will be notified by the laboratory when a specimen cannot be accepted or processed.