

## MDLB 1991, LABORATORY PRACTICUM - EVALUATION OF NATIONAL COMPETENCIES

# Lesson Guide: Introductory Skill-Training Activity 3

### ACTIVITY 3: LABELLING BLOOD TUBES

#### **Purpose:**

Labelling must be exact and procedures strictly followed. In this activity, the trainer will emphasize the importance of this and the results of inaccurate labelling. Some of this conversation, such as describing the potential consequences of a mislabelled tube, is not appropriate for bedside training and as such it is included as a pre-practicum activity.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this activity, the student will be able to:

- Practise labelling a tube.
- Define what a complete label should look like.
- Recognize an incorrectly labelled tube.
- Understand the consequences of a mislabelled tube.

#### **Prerequisite Concepts and Skills:**

- Importance of patient identification
- Labelling procedure theory from MDLB 1321, *Phlebotomy Procedures and Specimen Preparation*

#### **Materials and Resources:**

##### **For students:**

- MDLB 1991, Competency Manual and checklists for three pre-practicum activities.

##### **For the trainer:**

- Health Authority Collection procedure, including labelling procedure, if available
- Printed visuals (refer to [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine-6](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine-6) and CLS)
- Sample labels and ID bracelets (include a mismatch and incomplete label for the student to identify)
- Empty tubes

## 1. Labelling: Procedure

- a) Specimens must be labelled by the collector at the time of collection, in front of the patient.
- b) Placement: Labels must be applied in such a way as to facilitate opening the specimen container and ensuring viewing of the contents. Specifically:
  - Specimens must be labelled so the patient's name is next to the lid and the blood is still visible in the tube. Lab personnel need to see the volume and condition of the specimen without peeling back labels.
  - Labels must not be applied over the lid.
  - Do not wrap the label around the tube like a flag.
  - The tube lid should be on the left side when applying the label, leaving patient name closest to the label.
  - Labels with bar code should be applied lengthwise.

## 2. Specimen Rejection: Improperly Labelled or Unlabelled Samples

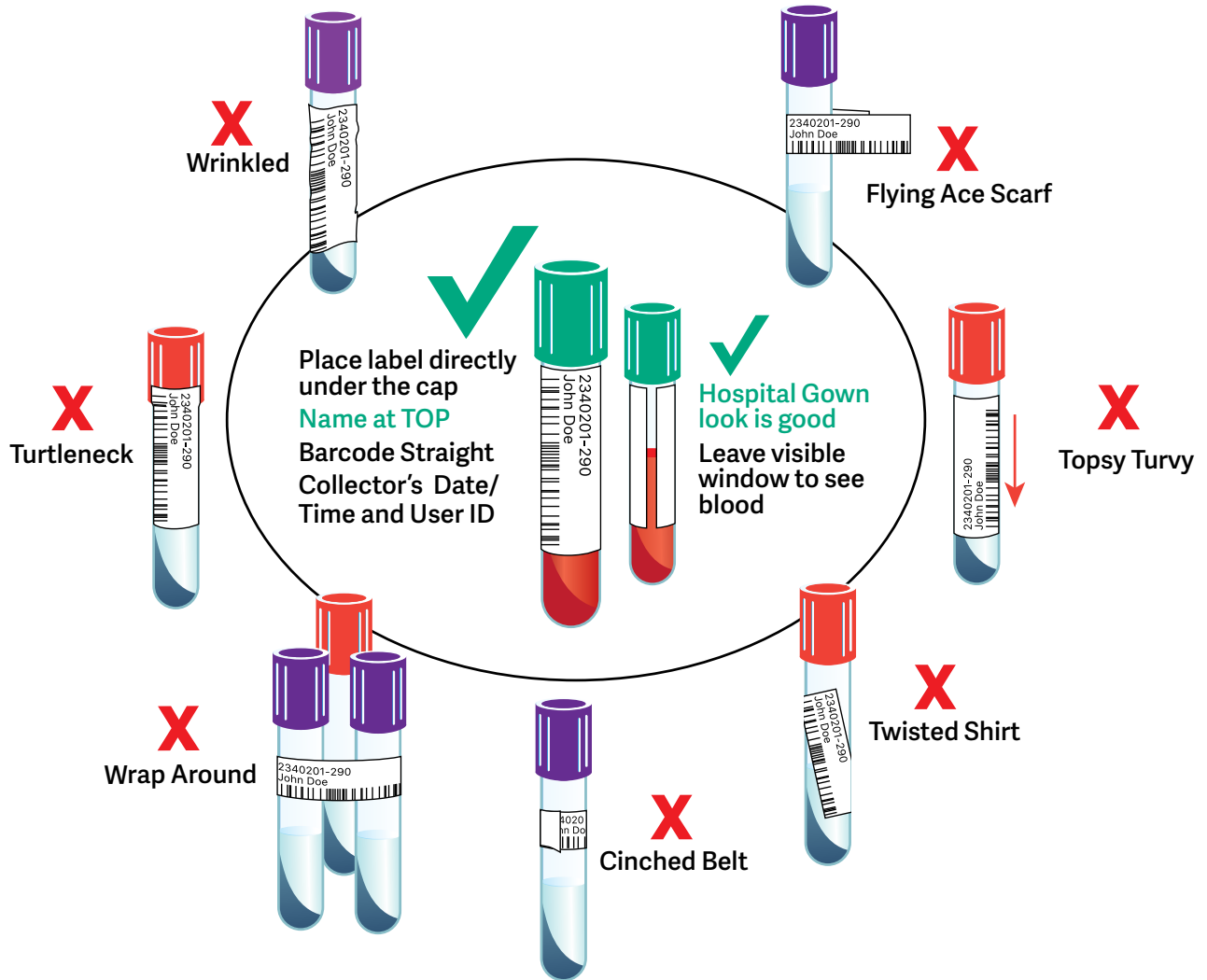
- a) Specimens must have the minimum labelling requirements; any that do not will be rejected by the laboratory and will have to be recollected.
  - The requisition and specimen must be correctly labelled to be accepted; information on the specimen must be identical to information on the requisition.
  - Specimen and Requisition Mismatch  
Specimens labelled with one patient name and sent with requisitions for another patient will be classified as mislabelled and will need to be recollected; the specimen label and requisition full name and unique identifier must match exactly.

### LESSON ACTIVITY

Trainer Activities	Student Activities	Time
<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask the student to recall, from their course, the importance of accurate labelling and the consequences of mislabelling.</li><li>• Explain the consequences associated with inaccurate labelling so students realize how devastating the mistake can be to a patient.</li></ul> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review labelling procedure and visual aids (supplied at the end of this document).</li><li>• Discuss placement of the label.</li><li>• Hand out materials and ask student to apply labels properly.</li><li>• Observe labelling and critique if required.</li><li>• Ask student to identify an incorrect match and an incomplete label.</li><li>• Provide tips on how to avoid specimen mislabelling.</li></ul> <p><b>Closure:</b></p> <p>Answer student questions and reinforce the importance of correct identification, collection and labelling.</p> <p>Complete the checklist in the Competency Manual.</p> <p>Stress the importance of always owning up to errors made. Honesty is valued more than perfection.</p>	<p>After the introduction, the student must label several tubes, ensuring proper label placement, and identify incomplete or inaccurate labels.</p> <p>Complete the checklist in the Competency Manual.</p>	

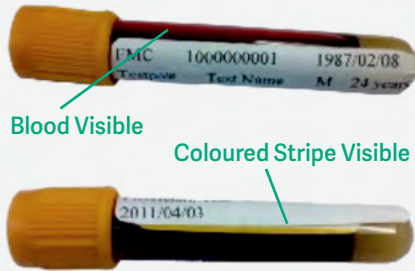
# Worst-Dressed Tubes

## GET IT STRAIGHT – REDUCE THE WAIT



# Labelling Blood Tubes with Pre-Printed Labels

## CORRECT



Blood Visible

Coloured Stripe Visible

Apply label with patient's name next to the lid.

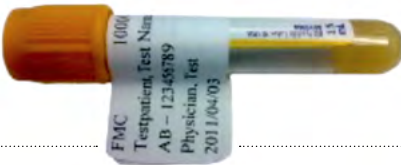
Apply label so blood is visible (volume, hemolysis, etc. can be seen).

Apply label with the coloured stripe indicating tube type visible.

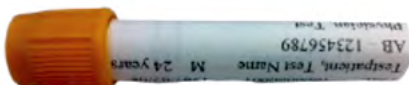
## INCORRECT



Do not apply the label over the lid.



Do not wrap the label around the tube like a flag.

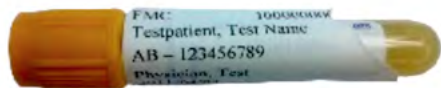


Do not apply the label with the patient's name at the bottom of the tube.



Do not apply long labels that overhang.

Cut labels short (preserve patient identification on label), then apply to tubes.



Do not tear off overhanging label with patient information from the end of the tube.



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PX-SC810 Attachment 3 Labelling Blood Tubes with Pre-Printed Labels REV 1.01