

# Labeling of Blood Specimens

## Objective:

Identify the process for labeling of blood specimens

- ❖ Obtain labels and tubes as indicated on the printed labels.
- ❖ Identify the patient using two patient identifiers.
- ❖ The person who collects specimen must write on the label:
  - ❖ Date and time of collection
  - ❖ First & last initial in **block letters**
- ❖ Label each tube with the pre-printed label at the patient's bedside.
  - ❖ Place the label **vertically**
  - ❖ Place the label **just beneath the cap**
  - ❖ The orientation of the label- **left to right (top to bottom) from the cap**
- ❖ Perform a **FINAL check**:
  - ❖ Verify each tube at bedside against the patient's ID band before placing specimen in the transport bag
  - ❖ Place specimen in biohazard transport bag, seal the bag, and send to lab immediately
- ❖ If lab labels are not printing:
  - ❖ Label the tube with a **demographic label or a blank label**
- ❖ If blood is drawn before an order is placed:
  - ❖ Label the tubes with a **demographic label or a blank label** until orders are obtained and lab labels are printed
- ❖ All labels must include:
  - ❖ 2 patient identifiers
  - ❖ Date and time specimen was collected
  - ❖ Initials of person who obtained specimen
- ❖ Once a lab label is printed:
  - ❖ Attach the lab label to the specimen
  - ❖ **Do not cover** the information on the original label



## CORRECT

- **ONE** bar code label per tube
- Label should be placed just beneath the cap—reads from left to right (top to bottom) from the cap.
- Orientation is necessary for instrument scanner to accurately read bar code

## INCORRECT

1. Wrong orientation (upside down)
2. More than one label (must fully wrap around tube)
3. Wrong orientation (unable to be scanned)

