**TITLE: Container Labeling**

**Principle:** Specimen identification is maintained on specimen containers through all phases of testing, including aliquots, manual dilutions, slides, blocks, culture plates and other secondary specimen containers created during the processing and /or testing of a specimen.

Primary specimen containers are labeled with a minimum of two patient identifiers. The laboratory bar code labels contain full patient name, date of birth, unique visit financial number and medical record number.

The identification used must provide reliable identification of the secondary specimen and be linked to the patient, collection date, and specimen type. The identifiers must be indelible, legible and withstand processing and storage conditions. Use of permanent markers or bar code labels is preferred.

Slides that are prepared are considered secondary specimen containers. Slides prepared in the patient setting and brought to the laboratory are considered primary specimen containers and must follow the labeling requirements of:

* Full patient name
* Date of Birth
* Financial number or medical record number

For histology specimens, each block of tissue must be identified by a unique, traceable identifier to the primary specimen. If additional blocks are prepared, all lists and logs must reflect the addition. Identification on blocks must be legible and remain affixed to the block. Each slide must be identified by the unique identifier traceable to the primary specimen.

**Personnel:**  All laboratory staff