

## INADEQUATELY LABELLED SPECIMENS AT ST VINCENT'S PATHOLOGY

### REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LABELLING

In keeping with international and national regulatory requirements that govern all pathology services, and as good clinical practice, **St Vincent's Pathology** adheres to strict specimen and request form acceptance rules. This includes mislabelled, unlabelled and inadequately labelled specimens and requests.

#### General Pathology Samples

General Pathology samples are all samples other than Blood group and pre-transfusion samples (see below).

General request forms **must** have **three major patient identifiers**.

Tubes and specimen containers **must** have at least two major identifiers that match the request form.

In addition, **date and time of collection and a collector identification or signature must be completed on the request form**.

Patient identifiers in order of priority:-

- Surname and full given name(s) (1 identifier only)
- Date of birth
- Unit record number (if applicable)
- Medicare number
- Address
- Gender
- Phone number

Details on request form and specimens **must** match.

#### Blood Group and pre-transfusion Samples

Requests and specimens related to **blood group testing, blood group & antibody testing and pre-transfusion testing** have even more stringent requirements.

**There are specialised request forms for blood grouping related testing that need to be fully completed.**

In **addition** to the 'General Pathology' sample requirements **these specimens must** have **hand written**:-

- Surname and full given name(s)
- Date of birth
- Unit record number (if applicable)
- Date and time of collection
- A collector signature on the specimen

Request forms **must** have:

- A completed collector declaration (this is to certify that the collector confirmed the patient identity and labelled the specimen immediately following collection, in the patient's presence).

Information given on Request form and specimen **must** match all details **exactly**, including dates / times any signatures or initials.

#### REFERENCED REGULATORY STANDARDS

- ❖ *Requirements for Medical Pathology Services*. National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) –sixth Ed 2013
- ❖ *Australian Standard: Medical Laboratories Requirements for quality and competence AS ISO 15189-2013*
- ❖ NATA Interpretation of NPAAC Requirements and ISO 15189. *Medical Testing Field Application Document. Requirements for accreditation*. November 2013
- ❖ NSQHS Standards – *National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, Standard 5: Patient Identification and procedure matching*. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in HealthCare. September 2012