

# LabMed Report

A publication of:  
Munson Healthcare Laboratories  
Grand Traverse Pathology, PC  
Physicians Diagnostic Support Service

**In this issue: Specimen Rejection Policy – Clinical Laboratory Specimens**

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## **Policies:**

- Incorrectly, labeled specimens (see definition below) can be deemed acceptable for testing by completion of a Specimen Problem Resolution Form.
- Mislabeled specimens (see definition below) will be rejected unless deemed irretrievable.
- Unacceptable specimens (see definition below) will be rejected unless deemed irretrievable by the Medical Director.
- Irretrievable specimens (see definition below) cannot be recollected and may be deemed acceptable for testing by completion of a Specimen Problem Resolution Form.
  - A provider may consult with a Pathologist to have a specimen, outside of those listed in this policy, declared irretrievable. A Specimen Problem Resolution Form needs to be completed.
- Rejected specimens will be retained in a specially designated area, for completion of investigation. The specimens must be held one full day.
- Incorrectly labeled, mislabeled or unacceptable Blood Bank specimens require recollection, without exception.

## **Definitions:**

**Incorrectly Labeled Specimen** – These specimens require clarification before they can be used for testing:

- Does not apply to Blood Bank Specimens; these specimens must be recollected.
- Specimen and requisition have identically matched two patient identifiers. However, one of these identifiers do not match previous patient records.
- Specimen and requisition have identically matched two patient identifiers. However, other required information is missing or incorrect.
  - Date
  - Time
  - Identification of collector
  - Specimen source, when indicated

**Mislabeled Specimen**—Incorrect or missing identification information:

- Incorrect name (including misspelling) or no name on the label.
- Incorrect second identifier or no second identifier on the label.
- Incorrect additional identifiers on the label.
- Specimen container unlabeled (No label on the specimen).
- Specimen and requisition do not match
- Specimens for preparation of blood products from Blood Bank that do not follow the hospital procedure for Blood Bank Specimen Labeling.

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**Unacceptable Specimen**—Specimen not able to be used for testing, due to specimen quality. Possible specimen problems (examples, not an all-inclusive list):

- Container is leaking
- Hemolysis, clotted or contaminated specimens
- Inappropriate specimen storage
- Label or requisition is illegible
- Quantity not sufficient for testing
- Specimen not properly processed for testing
- Transportation not timely
- Wrong collection method
- Wrong container type
- Wrong/Missing Source, if indicated

**Retrievable Specimen**—Specimens that can be recollected.

- Any specimen not on the irretrievable specimen list (below).

**Irretrievable Specimen**—Specimen types identified in this procedure or through agreement between the practitioner and pathologist that cannot be recollected. These include the following specimen types:

- Aborted fetal material
- Amniotic fluid
- Arterial blood gasses
- Blood specimens involving special endocrine stimulation studies where patient preparation includes dosing the patient prior to collection (examples might include renin, aldosterone, cortisol).
- Body fluids (except blood and urine)
- Bone marrow
- Bronchial wash
- Catheter tip
- Cerebrospinal fluid
- Chain of custody specimens
- Intra-abdominal or intrathoracic blood from radiology-guided collection.
- Pre-antibiotic Microbiology cultures where antibiotic therapy has begun
- Products of conception
- Suprapubic urine collections
- Surgical or tissue specimens or slides with tissue imprints
- Synovial fluid
- Urinary Calculi
- When the practitioner has consulted with the pathologist and pathologist deems