The patient ID and specimen labeling policies dictate that <u>the person obtaining a specimen</u> from a patient must first identify the patient and compare a <u>BAR CODE LABEL</u> before obtaining the specimen. Frequently LIP's will get an OB stool, culture a wound or LP patients and then tell a nurse or tech later to label the specimens and send them to the lab. Unfortunately, the ED has a high incidence of mislabeled specimens and the practice of having other staff members label the specimen after the fact is causing a policy violation. This is a patient safety issue and is all too common. Please get labels and apply them when you obtain the specimen (ORDER TEST, PRINT LABEL, ID PT, OBTAIN SPEC, LABEL SPEC, SEND SPEC).

There may be circumstances whereas specimens are obtained during a procedure (such as taking blood during a central line placement). The nursing staff would then be responsible for patient ID and specimen labeling. They can also assist with interpretation of the information on the specimen labels as it can be difficult for those who are unfamiliar.

You can ask any nurse or tech to print your label <u>or you can do it yourself as shown below</u>. Please ask if you have any questions.

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