



MEMORANDUM # 65

To: UNC Hospitals Housestaff, Attendings, Nursing Supervisors, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D., Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories *HW*
Cathy Holleman, Administrative Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories *CH*

Subject: Specimen Labeling

Date: July 7, 2009

On July 15, 2009 the Hospitals will implement a new patient armband that will replace the current blue identi-print band and addressograph plate. The new armband will contain a bar code with the patient's medical record number and eye readable patient information.

- For those areas that use the identi-print card to make a specimen label you will now use the preprinted label that is generated at the time the patient is admitted or registered for their appointment.
- For those areas that currently use a laboratory specimen barcode label you will continue to use the laboratory label.
- For outpatient locations that do not armband the patient the process for specimen labeling remains unchanged.

As a reminder patients must be identified with two identifiers prior to collecting specimens:

- Inpatients – compare the name and medical record number on the specimen label with information on the armband
- Outpatients – ask the patient to state their name and date of birth and compare to the specimen label

All specimens must be labeled at the time of collection in the presence of the patient and before leaving the patient's side.

For questions or more information regarding labeling, please contact Laura McClannan at 966-8467.