STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Date: December 5, 2022

To: Medical Laboratory Directors; Healthcare Providers

From: Jafar H. Razeq, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB), Laboratory Director

Re: **New Clinical Specimen Requirement at the State Public Health Laboratory**

Beginning **January 1, 2023**, the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) will begin rejecting clinical specimens that are submitted for testing which do not contain two patient identifiers. The requirement of labeling every clinical laboratory specimen with two patient identifiers supports The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal for the Laboratory to improve the accuracy of patient identification by using at least two patient identifiers when providing laboratory services (found at: https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/2023/npsg_chapter_lab_jan2023.pdf).

The acceptable patient identifiers for specimen identification include:

- Patient's first and last name
- Date of birth
- Medical Record Number
- Submitting Laboratory's specimen accession number

The SPHL is requiring that clinical laboratories/healthcare providers follow these guidelines for specimen submission:

- Select at least two identifiers from the list of patient identifiers above.
- The identifiers may be handwritten on the specimen container, or a lab generated label may be used, as long as it has at least two identifiers.
- When filling out the test requisition, be sure that the information on the specimen matches the requisition.
- If a specimen does not meet the requirements of two identifiers, the SPHL will initiate a call to the submitter to resolve the issue. The submitter will be given the opportunity to identify a non-retrievable specimen or to recollect.

With client support, it is anticipated this new requirement will improve our services by the reduction of pre-analytical errors and improvement to patient safety. If you have questions or concerns regarding this change, please contact our Quality Assurance Manager, Diane Noel, at 860-920-6550 or by email diane.noel@ct.gov.

Keeping Connecticut Healthy
DPH
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