

# QUALITY SPECIMENS=QUALITY RESULTS

From collection to transport SJH Laboratory expects quality specimens. A quality specimen is one that has been collected and transported, keeping specimen integrity and patient identification intact.

## Collection

Please visit [SJHbangor.testcatalog.org](http://SJHbangor.testcatalog.org) for complete specimen collection instructions. To have the most up-to-date information available, always double check the catalog prior to collecting a specimen. Be sure to take note of any important collection information and specimen stability times.

## Labeling and Orders

Due to the large number and wide variety of specimens received in our Laboratory, identification is extremely important to prevent possible errors in treatment. Proper labeling and correct orders also decreases time spent investigating and discovering any missing information. All specimens should be labeled immediately after collection with 2 patient identifiers.

## REMEMBER: DO IT RIGHT! LABEL ON-SITE!

### Labels should always include:

- ✓ Patient's First and Last Name
- ✓ Patient's DOB
- ✓ Date and Time of Collection
- ✓ Collector's Initials

### Orders should always include:

- ✓ Patient's Information (Full name, DOB, address and ph.#)
- ✓ Diagnosis (ICD-10 code or signs and symptoms)
- ✓ Patient's Insurance Information
- ✓ Ordering Provider's Information (Provider's full name, address, ph. # and fax #)

## **For Non-Blood Specimens: Type or Description (i.e. Urine, Pleural, Synovial)**

The quality of results is dependent on accuracy of specimen collection and labeling. If identification is not complete, is inaccurate, or the specimen is improperly labeled or collected, SJH Laboratory reserves the right to reject the specimen and require recollection.

## **Transport**

SJH Laboratory provides plastic biohazard bags for transporting specimens. All samples should be handled according to the specimen and test requested.

Uniship is our courier service. See Contact list for courier information.

Remember when placing specimens in transport bags to:

Match the requisition with the specimens, and place only a single patient in a bag.

Urine or body fluids should be bagged separately from blood specimens.

Always make sure lids are on correctly and tight. Leaky specimen containers will result in cancellation and recollection.

Never send syringes with needles attached.

**For more information, please contact the Laboratory at 207-907-1659.**