



Bassett Healthcare Network

## Orientation of Specimen Labels

Properly orienting a label is an important part of specimen labeling as the label must be placed appropriately for it to be read by the barcode readers in the laboratory. When labels are not placed on the specimen correctly, the specimen cannot be scanned into the lab without manual intervention. The lab staff have to enter the chart for each patient, reprint the label, verify the identification on the labels match, relabel the specimen and send it back through the receiving process. This process is not only inefficient, it delays testing the specimens and getting results back out promptly to a provider. When the specimens are critical to providing care to the patient, every second counts.

The following is information to help you properly label each specimen that you collect.

### Correct orientation of the label:

Labels are to be placed in the center of each tube with the barcode at the cap end of the tube.

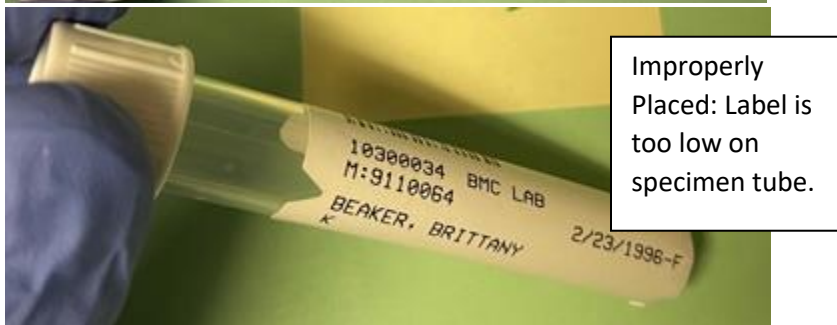
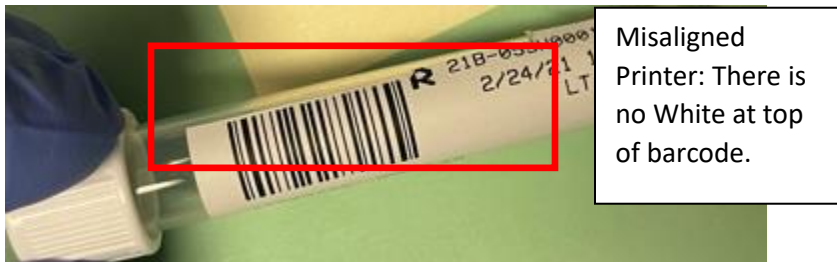




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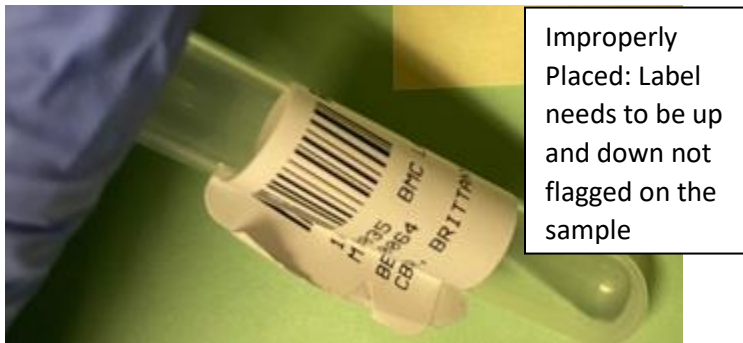
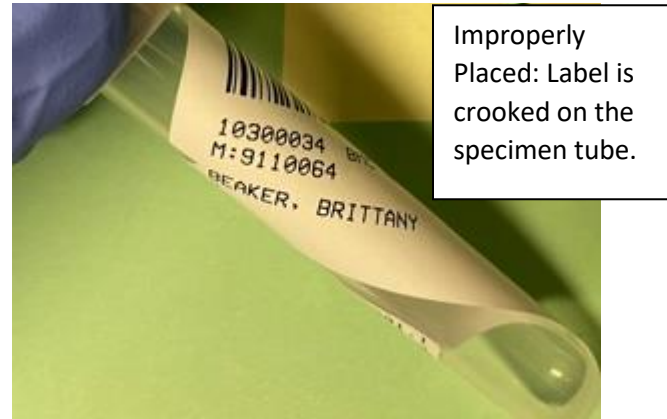
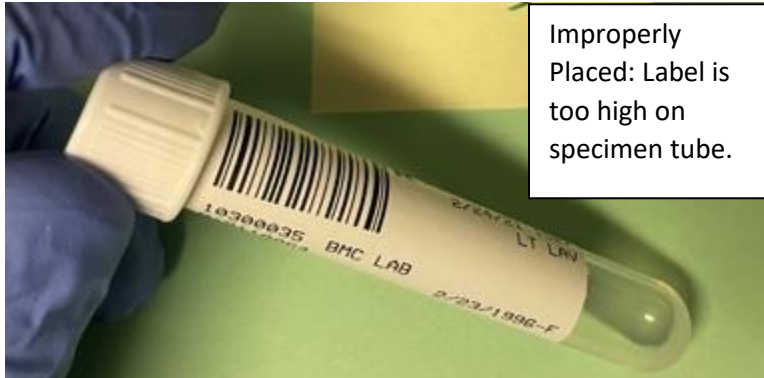
## Incorrect orientation of the label:

The following are examples of improper labeling that we see most often that cause the rework once the specimens arrive in the lab:





## Orientation of Specimen Labels



Delays impact patient care, so proper placement of the labels will help the lab meet the expected turnaround time, improve efficiency and eliminate rework.