

**CONWAY REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
CLINICAL LABORATORY**

Patient Identification

PURPOSE

Incorrect identification of a patient can lead to erroneous test results and possible harm to the patient. In an effort to provide quality patient care and assure accurate test results, the laboratory has adopted the following policy.

POLICY

1. A patient identification band must be attached to the patient before collection of any specimen from that patient.
2. Identification bands attached to the patient's bed or to the wall above the patient's bed will not be used to identify the patient.
3. In circumstances which prevent the patient from being able to wear an identification band, the patient must be identified by a physician or nurse. The person identifying the patient must write on the laboratory request "patient identified by" and their initials.
4. In an emergency situation where the patient has no identification band and cannot be identified, a blood bank ID band may be attached to the patient. The blood bank ID number may then be used to identify the patient. Additionally, patients tagged emergently during an external disaster, may be identified utilizing tags assigned by disaster triage.

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03/31/05

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE _____
(Medical Director)

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE _____
(Clinical Director)