

Ensure Full Accountability With MCE & Specimen Barcoding

MCE - TRACK SPECIMENS WITH BARCODES

Barcodes use a sequence of vertical bars and spaces that represent numbers and other symbols in a machine-readable form. They are attached to products or materials as a means of quick identification and are read by laser scanners.

For use in specimen transportation, barcodes are connected with the hazmat bag to uniquely identify specimens, and verify specimen pick-up and delivery times. With MCE, we are also able to associate other information with the barcode identifier such as: courier identification, client location, number of specimens, and the type of specimen being transported (ambient, refrigerated, or frozen).

BARCODING OPTIONS FOR SPECIMEN TRACKING

There are three barcode options for specimen tracking:

1. Printed barcodes on patient requisition forms. If your client has the capability to print barcodes directly on the patient requisition, we encourage labs to pursue this option. Barcoded requisitions are the most efficient and cost-effective way to identify specimens, and can be easily placed in the pocket of a hazmat bag to be scanned.



REQUISITION

Best Labs USA

Submitting Physician (Name and Telephone)	Today's Date
Patient Name (Last, First M) (fill in or attach information)	Patient Date of Birth

2. Printed barcodes on hazmat bags. Many hazmat bag suppliers have the capability to customize bags to include unique barcode identifiers. This is a very efficient option for barcoding as well.



3. Printed barcodes on adhesive labels. Adhesive labels offer more flexibility for where a barcode can be placed. It can stick to the hazmat bag, patient requisition, and/or the patient log sheet. There are several adhesive label options available depending on your lab's needs, and each can be printed by MCE. Find more about adhesive label options on the reverse side of this sheet.



ADHESIVE BARCODE LABEL OPTIONS

Adhesive barcode labels require someone to manually place labels on the patient requisition, hazmat bag, and/or patient log sheet. This can be done by:

- the client as part of the specimen collection process,
- the courier at pick-up
- the lab, by pre-affixing labels to the hazmat bag prior to client distribution.

Which option is best for your lab? The answer depends on the procedures and guidelines set by your lab for quality assurance.

Single Label: One single label that is placed on the hazmat bag, or the patient requisition for tracking. Single labels have a perforated liner to easily tear away from the roll.



Duplicate Label: Two separate labels containing the same identification numbers. One label is placed on the hazmat bag or patient requisition, and the second “duplicate” label is placed on the patient log sheet. Should the client call the lab with a question about any specimen, they can reference the unique identifier from the log sheet, and quickly locate the data in MCE.



Piggyback: A Piggyback label is a single barcode with double-adhesive layers. The barcode is first affixed to the hazmat bag. After the specimen is dropped off, the label can be easily removed and reaffixed to the patient requisition for entry into the LIS system.



Contact us for more information about labels, specimen bags, and the suppliers that we recommend.

NOT READY FOR BARCODING?

No problem. Even though we recommend barcoding to provide complete specimen accountability, MCE also offers essential features to keep your specimen logistics process operating efficiently. **Call or email us today to learn more about all the ways you can make your process more effective for clients, couriers and admins.**

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