



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Capital Health physicians, HSM, Inpatient units and Outpatient clinic staff, Nurse Educators, Nurse Practitioners,
 From: Dr. J.G. Heathcote, District Chief, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
 Anita Muise, District Manager Laboratory Client and Support Centre
 Date: November 6, 2014
 Subject: **New STAR label requirements for blood collection tubes**

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has introduced new Chemistry and Hematology instrumentation in laboratories throughout Capital Health, and is moving closer to the completion of the Core Laboratory at the QEII Health Sciences Centre, predicted to open early in 2015. With the changes in instrumentation and the introduction of robotics within the core setting, there is a need to standardize the labeling of blood specimens to avoid interference with the performance of the instruments.

Effective January 19, 2015 all blood specimens collected in Capital Health inpatient units and outpatient clinics must be labeled with either:

- 2x1 inch STAR registration labels,
or
- LIS generated labels (Emergency Department, Capital Health Blood Collection facilities).

Locations currently using the 2x1inch STAR label will see no change in practice. Locations impacted by this change can start using the required label **prior to January 19th**, noting that the larger STAR labels will not be accepted after this date, and may result in rejection of the specimen.

The STAR label must be stuck to the specimen tube below the top and without any wrinkles. The label must not be left hanging from the tube or wrapped around the bottom. Instructions for placement of the LIS label will follow separately to users of these labels.

STAR Label Ordering Information:

Available as an in stock item: SAP Material# 151958 (old stock # S1020997). Please ensure sufficient stock is on hand prior to January 19, 2015

Stock Number	Label Size	Paper Size	Number of Labels	Information on Label
SAP # 151958	2 x 1	3.5 x 8"	7	LABEL ID PATIENT HORIZON

STAR Label Printing Information:

The form name in STAR for these labels on the Print Form Option List is "SAMPLE LABELS-7MF". The anticipated date that this option will be available is **November 17, 2014**. Please ensure you have the capability to print the STAR labels, including the appropriate printer tray.

Questions related to label printing must be directed to the Capital Health Helpdesk at **902-473-3399**. Other questions may be directed to: DPLMCustomerService@cdha.nshealth.ca