



HOW TO PREVENT BLOOD SAMPLE ERROR SUBMISSIONS

It has come to the attention of ESRD Network 18 by several Transplant Center Managers and Transplant Center Medical Directors that many blood specimens are being improperly submitted to their transplant centers and/or affiliated laboratories. The transplant centers have requested assistance from Network 18 to educate, provide awareness of this issue and remedy the problem(s) regarding it.

Submission of any laboratory specimens must be 100% accurate at all times. Any errors with submission can present serious and/or tragic outcomes. Below are the types of errors being received by the transplant centers. Please ensure that your facility submits all blood specimens (for any type of laboratory collection) correctly and accurately.

TYPES OF ERRORS RECEIVED BY TRANSPLANT CENTERS AND/OR THEIR AFFILIATED LABORATORIES:

TYPE OF ERROR:	RESOLUTION:
Samples received for patients that are not active.	Verify that your patient is on the transplant list prior to drawing and sending laboratory samples. Communicate with your transplant center on the status of patients on the transplant list. The Network website (www.esrdnetwork18.org) has transplant center communication documents and tracking logs facilities can utilize. They are found under Quality Improvement, QI Tools & Forms, Transplant Referral Documents.
Samples received for patients that are no longer a candidate.	Verify that your patient is on the transplant list prior to drawing and sending laboratory samples. Communicate with your transplant center on the status of patients on the transplant list. The Network website (www.esrdnetwork18.org) has transplant center communication documents and tracking logs facilities can utilize. They are found under Quality Improvement, QI Tools & Forms, Transplant Referral Documents.
Samples received for patients that have transferred to another transplant center.	Verify that your patient is on the transplant list prior to drawing and sending laboratory samples. Communicate with your transplant center on the status of patients on the transplant list. The Network website (www.esrdnetwork18.org) has transplant center communication documents and tracking logs facilities can utilize. They are found under QI Tools & Forms, Transplant Referral Documents.
Samples are incorrectly labeled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No labels on sample. ○ Wrong date of birth on sample. ○ Wrong social security number on sample. 	Take the time to ensure that all identifying information and verified information is noted on the sample vial. You can find the “Blood Sample Label Verification-Patient Identification” document on the Network’s website under

Mission Statement

To provide leadership and assistance to renal dialysis and transplant facilities in a manner that supports continuous improvement in patient care, outcomes, safety and satisfaction.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No date of draw noted on sample. ○ No time of draw noted on sample. ○ No initials of person drawing blood on sample. 	Quality Improvement, QI Tools & Forms.
Received duplicate samples.	Utilize a tracking method to know which labs have and have not been submitted.
Sample received is old.	Ensure that you send out your samples in a timely manner and to the correct center/laboratory. Samples are subject to excessive heat and cold.
Sample received is hemolized.	Ensure that you send out your samples in a timely manner and to the correct center/laboratory. Samples are subject to excessive heat and cold.
Sample collected in error.	Usually this is a sample collected from an inactive patient who should not have a sample drawn and submitted or it is a duplicate sample collected during the same month.
Sample quantity was insufficient.	Adhere to quantity requirements for each laboratory for specific requested samples. (Usually 10ml with a minimum of 2ml in a vial.)
Samples received for incomplete paperwork.	This usually pertains to requisitions submitted with the sample. Verify that all required fields are completely and accurately filled out.
Samples received without requisitions.	Verify that samples and documents are packaged correctly and completely prior to sealing delivery box/package.
Requisition received does not match the sample submitted with it.	Verify that samples and documents are packaged correctly and completely prior to sealing delivery box/package.
Sample sent to the wrong lab.	Verify the patients transplant center and the address and location as to where that specific sample is to be sent. Ensure that you label the package correctly prior to mailing.

This is a very important patient safety issue – please ensure that all blood specimens (for any type of laboratory collection) are submitted correctly and accurately.