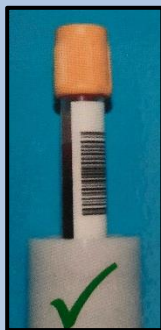
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	Current author: Simon Adams	Copy No.:
Pathology Service, Department of Central Specimen Reception	Approved by: Andrea Humphreys	Page 1 of 1

Quality of Barcode Labels Guide

It is essential that the integrity of the barcode on the sample is not compromised



PERFECT



SKEWED



TOO LOW



RIPPED



SMUDGED

Frequent causes of failed barcodes have been identified as...

- Poor quality of printed form and labels due to lack of toner
- Misalignment / Skewed barcode on the sample
- Wrong colour coded label being put on the sample
- Label being placed too low down on the sample tube
- Ripped or smudged barcodes due to excessive handling

Please would requestors check...

- There is sufficient toner to give clear and bold barcodes
- Forms are correctly aligned with printers

Please would blood takers ensure...

- Labels are applied without touching the printed barcode
- Labels are positioned straight and centrally
- Tube contents are visible by leaving a vertical gap
- The label matches the tube – colour codes must be correct
- The top of the label starts *just* under the lid of the tube

Results for samples with poor quality barcodes may be delayed, or delay other results, sometimes considerably. Additionally, some samples with extremely faint prints may be rejected altogether.

**Help yourself, help others and help the patient
by providing good quality barcodes.**