



## Heightening Patient Safety and Staff Productivity with Bedside Specimen Labeling

Errors in specimen labeling are a major contributor to adverse patient outcomes in hospitals around the world and account for nearly 56% of identification errors.<sup>1</sup> Misidentified samples can lead to misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment, creating serious risks to patient safety.

Forward-thinking healthcare organizations are embracing specimen labeling at the point of care to dramatically reduce errors, improve patient care and boost productivity. They are also helping to shrink costs associated with misidentified specimens, which add up to approximately \$280,000 per million specimens.<sup>2</sup> Redraws, retesting and additional treatment required due to errors costs hospitals up to \$400 million annually.<sup>3</sup>

A successful point-of-care labeling system is comprised of: a mobile computer that provides access to real-time draw orders and patient records; a mobile printer that can conveniently print specimen labels at the bedside; specimen labels that remain affixed to the samples throughout testing and storage; and barcode scanners that help keep track of specimens during the entire process.

Zebra is a leader in solutions that help healthcare organizations reduce errors and increase productivity while protecting patient safety and privacy. Our printer portfolio includes specialty, mobile, high-volume and wristband solutions – including our new ZQ600 Healthcare Series mobile printers – that take productivity, ease of use and manageability to new levels. We design, produce and rigorously pre-test our own line of thermal printing supplies, including specialty healthcare labels and wristbands, to ensure consistent, optimized performance.

### Mobile Solutions for Healthcare

- **Bedside Specimen Labeling.** Labeling blood and specimens at the time they are collected improves patient safety and helps prevent a host of problems related to misidentification. Zebra's compact ZQ600 mobile printers are built for everyday use in medical environments and make it easy for staff to print labels right at the point of care.
- **Positive Patient Identification.** Protecting sensitive patient and clinical data is critical to ensuring positive patient outcomes. With Zebra printers, wristbands and mobile computers, healthcare workers can print labels at the point of care and perform a three-point check: specimen order, patient wristband and labeled container.
- **Laboratory Management.** Processing specimens is an essential part of making a critical diagnosis. Accurate specimen labels optimize laboratory management by improving specimen identification and tracking from collection to testing. Quality Zebra IQ Color labels support CLSI AUTO12-A and enable automated color identification of STAT specimens to ensure they are processed in a timely manner.



## Reducing the Risk of Errors in Specimen Collection and Labeling

Want to improve specimen labeling accuracy, staff productivity and patient safety? Staff can automatically identify urgent specimens on demand with Zebra's IQ Color labels – reducing the instance of redraws and ensuring the timely processing of specimens. With the ZQ600 Healthcare Series mobile printers, you get advanced technology and innovative design features that drive new levels of productivity, ease of use and manageability.

### ZQ600 Healthcare Series Mobile Printers

#### Premium Mobile Printing at the Point of Care

- Withstands constant sanitizing with disinfectant-ready plastics
- Takes the guesswork out of printer status with easy-to-read color displays
- Powers every minute of the longest shift with advanced battery technology
- Delivers the fastest, most dependable wireless connections inside the hospital's four walls
- Easy to integrate, manage and secure with Zebra Link-OS® and Print DNA applications

### Specimen Collection Identification IQ Color Labels

#### Quality Labels with Zebra IQ Color

- Create visual cues or highlight critical information in current label format
- Provide a flexible, efficient and accurate alternative to preprinted media
- Feature a red bar that can be imaged as needed
- Eliminate the need to recollect rush specimens

#### Sources

- 1 Paul N. Valenstein, Stephen S. Raab, Molly K. Walsh (2006) Identification Errors Involving Clinical Laboratories: A College of American Pathologists Q-Probes Study of Patient and Specimen Identification Errors at 120 Institutions. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*: Vol. 130, No. 8, pp. 1106-1113.
- 2, 3 Zebra Technologies, *Benefiting from Bedside Specimen Labeling*

To learn more about how Zebra's ZQ600 printers can help boost productivity and specimen labeling accuracy, visit [www.zebra.com/ZQ600](http://www.zebra.com/ZQ600)

## Why Label at the Point of Care?

The more time and distance between when labels are produced and applied, the greater the chances they will be put on the wrong sample. By employing labeling at the point of care, healthcare organizations can effectively:

1

Eliminate virtually all errors in specimen samples and labeling

2

Make more informed decisions with accurate data

3

Better protect patient safety

4

Streamline processes to improve worker efficiency

5

Minimize labor and operating costs



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