Critical steps when collecting specimens

1. **Take equipment with you to the point of collection**: Specimen label printer, computer with scanner, specimen container, pathology bag.

2. **Correct patient**: Confirm patient’s name, DOB & URN (verbally). With the ieMR Specimen Collection window open, scan patient identification band.

3. **Print specimen labels from ieMR** (should be done prior to the specimen collection).

4. **Collect specimen**: Pot blood / specimen immediately (before you leave the point of collection) – a delay in potting may impact on test accuracy.

5. **Label the specimen before you leave the point of collection**. Make sure you put the correct label on the correct container. Sign date and time the label.

6. **Scan each label to mark as ‘collected’ in ieMR and confirm positive patient/container identification**. Sign collection before exiting.

7. **And, when you’re done, make sure you click "Sign" in ieMR to close out the collection task and avoid duplicate collections.**

**Before you sign in ieMR, check:**

a. Right patient, right blood, right tube, right label, right test, right time and right date.

b. Each label must be signed and dated (including time).

c. The collection time in the ieMR needs to match the actual collection time. You can change this manually if there has been a delay between actual collection and marking the specimens as collected.

Remember, when you mark an order as collected and sign in ieMR, you are indicating that all critical steps have been adhered to in the collection process.