



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

JOHN HELLERSTEDT, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347  
1-888-963-7111  
TTY: 1-800-735-2989  
www.dshs.texas.gov

July 1, 2016

Dear Colleague,

We are notifying you of an upcoming change in the requirements for submitting clinical specimens to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Laboratory Services Section (LSS). To maintain high testing standards, the DSHS Laboratory must implement more stringent acceptance criteria. Refer to the College of American Pathologists (CAP) general requirement:

***GEN. 40491: Primary Specimen Container Labeling***

*All primary specimen containers are labeled with at least two patient-specific identifiers.*

In order to meet this requirement, all specimens must be labeled with at least two patient specific identifiers; both a primary and a secondary identifier. The identifiers must appear on both the primary specimen container (or card) and the associated submission form. Specimens that do not meet this criteria **will be considered unsatisfactory** for testing effective **September 1, 2016**.

Acceptable identifiers are listed below:

List of Acceptable Identifiers (2 identifiers are required to make a positive ID)	Identifier Type (Patient Name + at least 1 secondary ID)
Patient Name (last name, first name)	Primary ( <b>required</b> )
Date of Birth	Secondary ( <b>preferred</b> )
Medical Record Number	Secondary
Social Security Number	Secondary
Medicaid Number	Secondary
Newborn Screening Kit Number	Secondary
CDC Number	Secondary

If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Hoffpauir**, Customer Service Manager, at **512-776-6030**. Thank you for your continued partnership, understanding, and support.

Sincerely

Grace Kubin, Ph.D.  
Director, Laboratory Services Section