



RE-PRINTING LAB LABELS

- Re-printing a lab label is sometimes necessary - for example, when a label is damaged, misaligned, missing text or barcode information, or when the label stock runs out.
- When a re-print is required, the **original label must always be destroyed**.

CONSEQUENCES OF RE-PRINTING LAB LABELS WITHOUT ORIGINAL

Unnecessary Venipuncture or Re-collection of Samples

- Venipuncture is an invasive procedure involving a puncture of the skin.
- A repeat collection due to label issues results in **unnecessary venipuncture**, which is classified as a **Level 3 patient safety event** in the Provincial Safety Management System (PSMS).

Breach of Patient Confidentiality

- A missing original label raises important questions:
 - Did it fall on the floor?
 - Was it left in a public area?
 - Could someone else have picked it up?
- Any unaccounted for label poses a **confidentiality risk**.

Wrong-Patient Sample Collection

- There have been incidents where the lab received two samples, with labels for the same patient, with **mismatched results**.
- When this occurs, a **third collection** is required to determine which sample is accurate, creating delays and additional investigation—especially critical when results are urgent.

BEFORE RE-PRINTING A LAB LABEL

- Confirm collection status in Cerner. Ensure collections are signed off so the system correctly reflects completed orders.

If You Must Re-print but Cannot Locate the Original Label

- Check all potential print locations.
- Review the worklist.
- Call the lab for assistance.

How to Help Prevent the Need for Re-printing

- Transport labels **with the patient chart** when moving between locations.
- If a patient has moved, consider **cancelling and re-ordering bloodwork** in the new location to prevent misplaced labels.