Standard Intent:

Requests for blood/blood components, tests or services may be submitted in an electronic or written format. Requests must contain sufficient information for accurate patient identification. Two independent patient identifiers are required, ideally including the patient's first full names and an ID number that is unique to the patient. The importance of accurate patient identification is fundamental in patient safety. Other information necessary to process a request for transfusion includes the specific component, the amount, any special requirements such as irradiation, the gender and age of the recipient, and the name of the authorized prescriber ordering the transfusion. The recipient's diagnosis and a history of transfusion and pregnancy may provide useful information to guide testing, product/component selection, or both. Blood banks should have a written policy defining the acceptance criteria for transfusion orders. Verbal requests are acceptable in urgent situations but should be documented in accordance with local policies.

LB.21 The laboratory ensures correct specimen labeling.

LB.21.1 The laboratory implements policies and procedures to ensure correct specimen labeling, including:

LB.21.1.1 Labeling of the specimen containers is conducted immediately after sample collection at the patient side.

LB.21.1.2 Two Patient's identifiers (patient's full name and medical record number).

LB.21.1.3 Date and time of sample collection.

LB.21.1.4 Identification of the person collecting the specimen.

Standard Intent:

Blood specimens collected for lab test or compatibility testing must be positively and completely identified and labeled before leaving the patient side. Acceptable practices for positive identification of patient and blood specimen labels must be defined in the specimen collection manual. Either handwritten or imprinted labels may be used provided that the information on the label is identical to that on the wristband and the lab request form. All tubes must be indelibly labeled and there must be a method to identify the phlebotomist who collected the blood sample and the date of sample collection.