

Pathology - Multiple Orders on a Single Specimen



This Quick Reference Guide will explain how to:

Manage multiple specimen labels for one specimen container.

What is the issue?

If multiple investigations are ordered on one non-blood specimen, each order will have a different accession number. This results in multiple specimen labels even although only one specimen is required, which creates confusion for both clinicians and lab staff.

e.g.

Task Description
Need to Collect: 2 Sterile Pot (W) Volume 50.00 mL, Accession # 02-19-042-1005 A; Volume 50.00 mL, Accession # 02-19-042-1006 A

In this example, a bacterial culture and a fungal culture have both been ordered on a pleural fluid sample, but the system is asking for two separate specimens.

Clinicians must ensure that investigations are ordered correctly to minimize this occurrence.

- Investigations on blood specimens:
 - Please refer to the QRG Pathology - Ordering and Cancelling Blood Tests
- *Non-blood* specimens:
 - CSF has a specific order set ("NEURO CSF Pathology") which ensures that only the minimum required number of specimen labels is produced
 - For all other non-blood specimens (e.g., urine, stool, sputum, bronchial washings/brushings) it is recommended that clinicians continue with pre-EMR paper ordering until specific order sets are created

NEURO CSF Pathology (Initiated Pending)	
4 Pathology	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cell Count CSF (Cell Count CSF and Gram Stain)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cytology CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protein CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glucose CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oligoclonal Bands CSF
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take concurrent serum electrophoresis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HSV I-II and VZV NAD CSF (Herpes Multiplex NAD CSF)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enterovirus NAD CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cryptococcal Antigens CSF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Xanthochromia Screen CSF

If clinicians do encounter this issue, the workaround that has been agreed with Dorevitch is:

1. If multiple specimen labels print but there is only one specimen, place ONE label on the specimen container
2. Place the other labels inside the bag along with the container (with backs still on, do not need to be stuck down)
3. In the lab, staff will be able to scan the barcodes on all the labels to determine what investigations have been ordered