

Patient Safety Initiatives



POSITIVE PATIENT IDENTIFICATION (PPID)

Halton Healthcare Services' Laboratory at OTMH was the first in Canada to pilot a new electronic patient identification system called *Mobilab* by Iatric Systems in the spring of 2007. The new system enhances patient safety by ensuring that specimens are collected from the right patient, at the right time, into the right specimen container and that the results are linked back to the right patient.

Based on barcode technology, the PPID system consists of a wireless handheld computer with a fully integrated scanner and a portable barcode label printer. When tests are ordered for a patient, the request is transmitted by a wireless connection to the handheld computer of one of the OTMH Laboratory staff within seconds. At the bedside, the patient's barcode identification on their wristband is scanned to make sure that it matches that of the patient requiring the tests.

Once the patient has been identified, specimen collection labels are generated at the bedside through the use of portable label printers. After specimen collection and labelling, barcode technology is used again to make sure that the appropriate specimens have been collected and correct labels have been applied.

The initial PPID phase was implemented by the Laboratory team for blood collection. Future plans include expansion to other clinical departments and services.

Tips for Patients

- You can help by making sure you understand what test is being done and that the staff person confirms who you are by checking your arm band and asking your name or date of birth.

