Guideline for Uniform Labeling of Blocks and Slides in Surgical Pathology

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) have developed the first evidence-based guideline to ensure patient safety through the uniform labeling of paraffin blocks and slides. The guideline is now available online in Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.

Ensure blocks and slides can be clearly linked to the correct patient.

Use a consistent labeling method for paraffin blocks and slides.

Employ two patient identifiers.
- Case type, year, and accession number
- Second identifier (e.g., patient’s name)

Adoption of the guideline enables your laboratory to provide an additional quality measure to improve patient care.

The new guideline outlines 12 recommendations to assist pathology laboratories in developing standardized block and slide labeling practices.