

# New Tube Labeling Description



Our goals for collecting and transporting specimens to St. Luke's include:

- Preserving the integrity of the sample.
- Eliminating the need to separate samples, using the original collection tube to test the specimen.
- Having the ability to add tests onto the stored specimen.
- This saves us money, time and reduces the chances of identification errors.

**On March 1, 2010, St. Luke's Laboratory will change the labeling format for specimens that can be collected in either lithium heparin (Green) gel test tubes or serum gel (Yellow) test tubes. The changes you will see include:**

<u>Printed Label</u>	<u>Description</u>
Green W/YE	Lithium heparin with gel separator. This is a green top tube with a yellow ring inside. This tube is used when plasma is a required specimen. When it is spun, it creates a barrier between the cells and plasma.
Green	Lithium heparin with no gel separator. Green top tube no yellow ring.
RED W/YELL	Serum separator tube (with gel separator). This tube is used when serum is the required specimen. This is a red top tube with a yellow ring inside. When it is spun, it creates a barrier between the cells and plasma.
RED W/BLAC	Serum collection tube, no gel. This tube is used when serum is the required specimen and the gel from the separator tube may interfere with testing. This is a red top tube with a black ring inside.

**If you have questions, please contact Sara Johnson, St. Luke's Laboratory IT Coordinator at 218 249 5429 or Sue Bachinski, St. Luke's Laboratory Outreach Manager at 218 249 2445.**