

Fetal RHD Screening: Sample barcode labelling Information

Improper sample labelling can result in processing difficulties with the sample and reduces workflow efficiency. Please assist NHSBT to provide an efficient, fast, low-cost service for our users by the performing **either** of the actions below:

- do not place the hospital laboratory sample ID label on the blood tube (place it on the request form only), **or**
- follow the instructions in this guide to label the send-away sample tube

When placing a label on a tube, there are 3 main steps to follow:

1. Place the label approximately 1.5 - 2cm from the bottom of the test tube, or place the label at the top of the tube (as long as important patient identifiers are not excluded)
2. Ensure there is a visible window to view the blood
3. Check that the barcode is placed straight

Figure 1. Examples of acceptable sample labelling – Multiple tube types

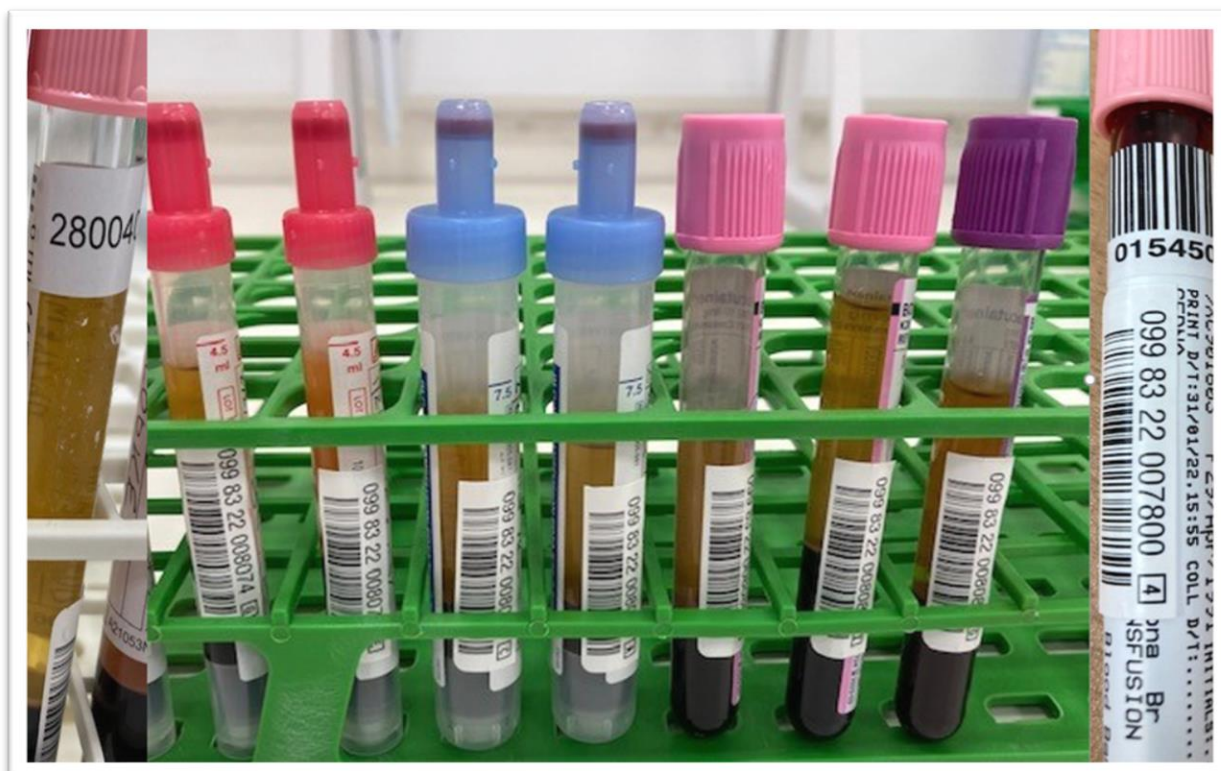
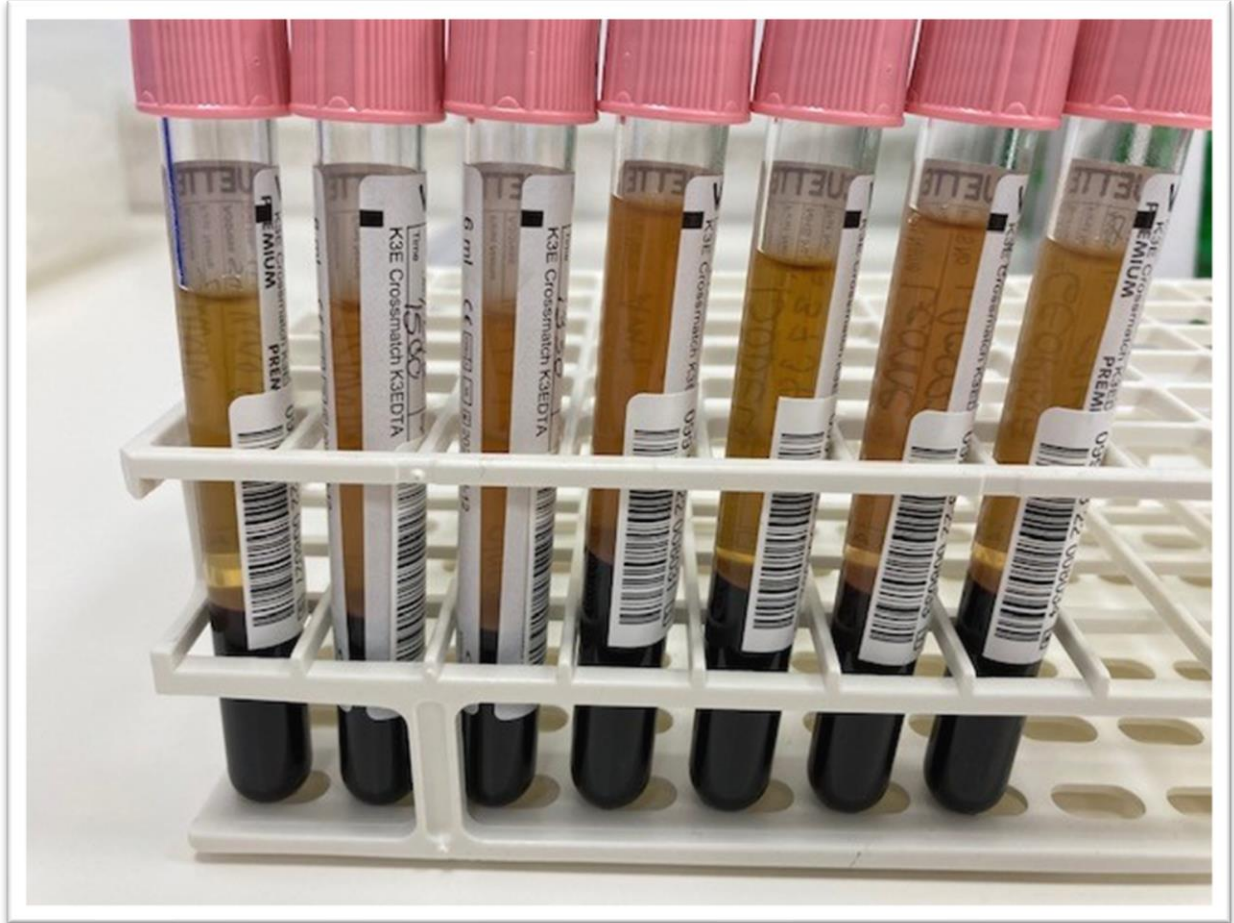


Figure 2. Ideal sample Labelling: 6ml tubes

These labels are ideally positioned, not covering sample window, patient details or sample details.



The position of these labels leaves a clear window that allows NHSBT staff to clearly identify the quantity and quality of the sample prior to testing, factors which can influence the accuracy of the test result. In the example above, NHSBT staff can clearly see there is sufficient plasma in the tube and the sample is not haemolysed.

It is also acceptable to place the barcode on the lid of the tube.



Below are some examples of poorly labelled sample due to:

Figure 3. Poorly labelled tube examples - reduced visibility of the contents



The window is covered and patient information is not clearly visible. The quality and quantity of the plasma is not obvious.