

Patient Identification: The Red Rule – It Takes Two

“At Bluewater health, we use two approved patient identifiers at the point of care before any patient interaction.”

Approved Identifiers Are:

Patient identification is the first step to a successful safe patient experience. At Bluewater Health our patients can expect to be asked the same patient identification questions at many points of service; this may have even been by the same healthcare provider in the same day. We use the Red Rule (two approved patient identifiers) to ensure your safety.

Patient identification is not a new practice at Bluewater Health; using patient identifiers confirms that the right person is receiving the right service or procedure.

The Red Rule applies to all staff, physicians, affiliate, students and volunteers. It includes, but **is not limited to** patient interactions such as:

- Admission
- Prior to the provision of any service
- Medication administration
- Blood sample collection
- Blood transfusion
- Lab specimen/sample collections (urine, swabs, sputum, etc.)
- Specimens for pathology
- Allergy verification
- Surgical or invasive procedures
- Transfer of care
- Discharge
- Release of personal health information

Approved Identifiers are:

- Patient name
- Patient address
- Patient date of birth
- Medical record number
- Patient visit number

Thank you for helping us support quality and safety at Bluewater Health.