

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Life-and-Death Labeling



BY ANIMATED

Regarding the Aug. 29 Metro story "Patient Dies From Blood Mismatch":

I am not surprised by this error. When I worked for Inova, I was shocked that the same, simple computer label was used to identify simple patient supplies such as a toothbrush as well as more serious items such as a tube of blood or a newborn

baby. To add to the confusion, patient photographs were not routinely taken on admission, and many patients were relocated for their convenience during a short hospital stay.

Patients should be aware of their blood types and patient account numbers and encouraged to verify this data with anyone approaching them with a needle or blood transfusion set.

MARY MacPHERSON
Alexandria

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