CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

determining information including identifying information and physical attribute information with a mobile device about a specimen sample within a specimen container by capturing an image of the specimen sample container using the mobile device, wherein the captured image includes an identifying indicia on the container,

wherein the mobile device is configured to determine the identifying information by interacting with the identifying indicia;

uploading and causing to store the information in an encrypted format accessible to authorized and verified users;

wherein the physical attribute information of the specimen sample is compared with an expected physical attribute that is associated with the identifying indicia,

wherein the actual determined attribute is determined based on an analysis performed by the mobile device or an external server of the captured image of the specimen sample within the container;

wherein an acceptability of the captured image is determined by the mobile device or an external server based on the comparison;

wherein tracking and status updates are provided in real-time or near real-time for the specimen sample; and

wherein first notifications or reminders regarding the specimen sample are received by the mobile device at a time after determining information about the specimen sample.

2. The method of claim 1, further including receiving a second notification that the captured image is acceptable or not acceptable, and when not acceptable, directing the mobile device or a user of the mobile device to capture a subsequent image.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the external server is configured to monitor an expected schedule of images to be uploaded, the method further including receiving a second notification that the captured image that was expected has not been received.

4. The method of claim 1, further including removing the captured image from the

mobile device upon receipt or the captured image by the external server, wherein the captured image is removed from the mobile device without user instructions received at the mobile device to remove the image in response to a notification from the external server that the image has been received by the external server.

5. A computer program product, said computer program product comprising a non-transitory code that when executed by a processor of a mobile device, performs a method, the method comprising:

determining information including identifying information and physical attribute information with the mobile device about a specimen sample within a specimen container by capturing an image of the specimen sample container using the mobile device, wherein the captured image includes an identifying indicia on a container,

wherein the mobile device is configured to determine the identifying information by interacting with the identifying indicia;

uploading and causing to store the information in an encrypted format accessible to authorized and verified users;

wherein the physical attribute information of the specimen sample is compared with an expected physical attribute that is associated with the identifying indicia,

wherein the actual determined attribute is determined by the mobile device or an external server based on an analysis of the captured image of the specimen sample;

wherein an acceptability of the captured image is determined by the mobile device or the external server based on the comparison,

wherein tracking and status updates are provided in real-time or near real-time for the specimen sample; and

wherein first notifications or reminders regarding the specimen sample are received by the mobile device at a time after determining information about the specimen sample.

6. The product of claim 5, wherein the method performed by the processor when the code is executed further comprises receiving a notification that a captured image is acceptable or not acceptable, and when not acceptable, directing the mobile device or a user of the mobile device to capture a subsequent image.

7. The product of claim 5, wherein the external server is configured to monitor an expected schedule of images to be uploaded, wherein the method performed by the processor when the code is executed further comprises receiving a notification that a captured image that was expected has not been received.

8. The product of claim 5, wherein the method performed by the processor when the code is executed further comprises removing the captured image from the mobile device upon receipt by the external server, wherein the captured image is removed from the mobile device without user instructions received at the mobile device to remove the image in response to a notification from the external server that the image has been received by the external server.

9. A server having a processor and a memory, the server configured for:

receiving information from a mobile device about a specimen sample within a specimen container, wherein the information includes identifying information and physical attribute information about a sample from a captured image of the specimen sample container,

wherein the captured image includes an identifying indicia on the container,

wherein the identifying information is determined by interaction of the mobile device with the identifying indicia,

wherein the physical attribute information of the specimen sample is compared by the mobile device or the server with an expected physical attribute that is associated with the identifying indicia,

wherein the actual determined attribute is determined by the mobile device or the server based on an analysis of the captured image of the specimen sample;

wherein a validity of the captured image is determined based on the comparison;

receiving uploaded and stored information in an encrypted format accessible to authorized and verified users;

determining at least one physical attribute of the specimen sample based on the information;

providing tracking and status information in real-time or near real-time for the specimen sample; and

providing notifications or reminders regarding the specimen sample to the mobile device.

10. The server of claim 9, further configured for transmitting a notification that a captured image is acceptable or not acceptable, and when not acceptable, directing the mobile device or a user of the mobile device to capture a subsequent image.

11. The server of claim 9, wherein the server is configured to monitor an expected schedule of images to be received, the server further configured for determining that a captured image that was expected has not been received, and generating a notification that a captured image that was expected has not been received.

12. The server of claim 9, further configured for directing the mobile device to remove the captured image therefrom after a successful transmission, wherein the captured image is removed from the mobile device without user instructions received at the mobile device to remove the image in response to a notification from the external server that the image has been received by the external server.

13. The server of claim 9, further configured for identifying confidential, private, or other sensitive information, and further configured for applying an image processing technique to a portion of the image having the confidential, private, or sensitive information to render that portion undiscernible, while leaving a remainder of the image not having the confidential, private, or sensitive information discernible.

14. The server of claim 9, further configured for identifying confidential, private, or other sensitive information, and further configured for applying an image processing technique to a portion of the image having the confidential, private, or other sensitive information, the image processing technique including blurring the confidential, private, or other sensitive information in the image.

15. A method comprising:

capturing, with an imager of a mobile device, an image containing identifying indicia on a container containing a specimen sample;

determining, with the mobile device, an identification of a specimen sample based on the identifying indicia in the captured image;

determining, with the mobile device, a characteristic of the specimen sample in the container that is in addition to the identification determined from the identifying indicia;

comparing, with the mobile device, the characteristic of the specimen sample with an expected characteristic that is based on the determined identification of the specimen sample;

determining, with the mobile device, a validity of the captured image based on the comparison;

uploading and causing to store, with the mobile device, the information in an encrypted format accessible to authorized and verified users;

wherein tracking and status updates are provided in real-time or near real-time for the specimen sample; and

wherein first notifications or reminders regarding the specimen sample are received by the mobile device at a time after determining information about the specimen sample.

16. The method of claim 15, further including receiving a second notification that the captured image is acceptable or not acceptable, and when not acceptable, directing the mobile device or a user of the mobile device to capture a subsequent image.

17. The method of claim 15, further including receiving a second notification that the captured image that was expected has not been received, wherein an external server is configured to monitor an expected schedule of images to be uploaded.

18. The method of claim 15, further including removing the captured image from the mobile device upon receipt or the captured image by an external server, wherein the captured image is removed from the mobile device without user instructions received at the mobile device to remove the image in response to a notification from the external server that the image has been received by the external server.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the validity of the captured image is based on a detected color of the specimen sample matching an expected color of a specimen associated with the identifier.