

# Specimen Transport

Maintaining the integrity of patient specimens from the time of collection until testing is completed is important. Please follow collection, preparation and transportation instructions in the catalog for each test, maintaining the specified temperature.

## Specimen Delivery by Transport

When specimens are personally transported to the Laboratory, place the specimen in the sealed side of a zip lock bag with a biohazard emblem. Ensure that the bag is tightly closed to prevent leaking. Place paper work in the separate compartment outside the sealed bag. A requisition is required with each specimen; therefore, if there are specimens to be transported at different temperatures, separate requisitions are required. However, if a single profile or test is ordered requiring samples at different temperatures, place the requisition with one of the samples, making a CLEAR notation on the requisition that there is another sample to accompany that order. For example, if both refrigerated and frozen samples are required, place the requisition with the refrigerated sample with the CLEAR notation on the requisition that "FROZEN SAMPLE SENT".

Maintain the specimens appropriately in your facility until transport to the laboratory. Courier service is provided to some areas. Pick-up times vary based upon location. Couriers will maintain specimens at the temperatures indicated by the clients.

## Referred Specimens Transport

Specimens mailed to Pathology Laboratory must be packaged as outlined to meet specifications for shipment of biological samples and etiologic agents.

### Sample Containers

- Samples must be placed in a securely closed, watertight primary container.
- Plastic tubes with tight-fitting friction or screw caps are acceptable for primary containers.
- Primary containers must be leak proof.

### Transport Procedure

- Place the primary container in a durable watertight secondary container.
- Place enough non-particulate absorbent material inside to absorb the entire contents of the primary container if leakage or spilling occurs.
- Plastic bags with absorbent gauze pads inside are acceptable secondary containers. NOTE: More than one primary container may be placed inside the secondary container as long as sufficient absorbent material is present.
- Secondary containers must be placed into an outer shipping container constructed of corrugated fiberboard, cardboard, wood, or other material of equal strength.
- Cardboard mailing tubes and cardboard boxes holding Styrofoam insulated containers could be used as shipping containers.
- Styrofoam containers can be used as an outer container if they meet the 200 pound burst strength requirement.
- Courier pouch or mailing bag cannot be used as the secondary container.
- The outer container must have a biohazard emblem as well as a label with the correct address of the reference laboratory.