



Proper Packaging and Transportation of Diagnostic Specimens Between Facilities

If you are transporting clinical specimens (potentially infectious human materials) follow these guidelines:

1. Specimen containers must be watertight and leak-proof; all materials must be transported and stored in a sealed secondary container, bearing the biohazardous warning label. The secondary container must be capable of containing the materials if the primary container breaks or leaks. Absorbent materials must be included between the primary and the secondary container in a quantity sufficient to absorb all liquids and to cushion the materials to prevent container breakage.



2. ***COURIERS WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY IMPROPERLY PACKAGED SPECIMEN***
3. Place in a box/rack to maintain an upright position.
4. Place specimen containers and racks in robust, leak-proof plastic or metal transport boxes with secure, tight fitting covers. (Igloo cooler recommended)



5. When transporting multiple primary containers, package them in a manner that will prevent damage. For example, if you are preparing to transport a number of vacutainers, place these in a rack that will prevent contact between the tubes.
6. Specimen data forms and identification data should accompany each transport box. A biohazard symbol, the name and telephone number of an emergency contact person, and the receiver's name, address and telephone number.
7. Keep a spill kit (*HepAid Bodily Fluid Disposal Kit*) available that contains:
 - a. absorbent material,
 - b. a chloride disinfectant,
 - c. a leak-proof waste container, and
 - d. powder-free or nitrile disposable gloves

Contact Information:



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