

Specimen Handling – The First Step towards Excellent Results

Each specimen that is sent to a laboratory should be sent at the proper temperature and in the correct conditions to ensure the best patient test results.

When bagging specimens for transport to the laboratory, each specimen type should be packaged according to temperature requirements; frozen, room temperature, and refrigerated. This will help the courier keep the sample at the correct temperature during transport. Please do not put frozen specimens in the large barcoded bag with room temperature or refrigerated specimens.

Preparing frozen specimens:

Centrifuge the specimen and remove the serum or plasma and place in a properly labeled aliquot tube. Please indicate the specimen type (serum or plasma) on the transfer tube. Place the tube and requisition into the blue frozen specimen bag and put in your on-site freezer.

Just before the courier arrives, package all frozen specimens together and place in a large barcoded specimen transport bag.

Preparing refrigerated specimens:

Centrifuge specimen and remove aliquots if necessary. Place specimens and requisitions into separate specimen bags by patient. Be sure that your centrifuged tubes accompany the other tubes to the laboratory.

Just before the courier arrives, package all refrigerated specimens together and place in a large barcoded specimen transport bag.

Preparing room temperature specimens:

Centrifuge specimens and remove aliquots if necessary. Place room temperature specimens into a bag with the requisition.

Just before the courier arrives, package all room temperature specimens together and place in a large barcoded specimen transport bag.

If you have any questions about specimen requirements and handling you can visit our online Laboratory Manual at <http://www.umassmemoriallabs.org/LabManual2.asp> or contact Customer Service at 800-476-4431

