CLINICAL TESTING FOLLOWING A SUSPECTED CHEMICAL EXPOSURE EVENT

Business Hours
(M-F, 8AM-5PM)
(518) 474-7161

Important: If you suspect exposure to a chemical agent, you must contact the Wadsworth Center before collecting and submitting any clinical specimens (These instructions apply to New York State, excluding the 5 boroughs of New York City)

After Hours
Public Health Duty Officer
(866) 881-2809

Step 1: COLLECTION

Step 2: PACKAGING and DOCUMENTATION
Pack and Ship Clinical Specimens as Category B Infectious Substances

BLOOD SPECIMENS

Primary Receptacle

• 3ml or larger purple-top
• 3ml or larger gray-green-top

Secondary Packaging

Materials for protecting primary receptacles, absorbent material, and waterproof, 95 kPa pressure resistant packaging

• Keep blood tubes separated, or wrap tubes to prevent contact between them
• Place specimens in secondary packaging. Package blood tubes by patient number so that all specimens from the same patient are together
• Add absorbent material (enough to absorb entire contents of all tubes)
• Secure first layer of secondary packaging with a single strip of evidence tape initialed \( \triangleleft \) on the container and \( \triangleleft \) on the tape by the person making the seal
• Wrap and seal first layer of secondary packaging with absorbent material
• Place into additional layer(s) of secondary packaging (if necessary) and secure outermost layer with a single strip of evidence tape initialed \( \triangleleft \) on the container and \( \triangleleft \) on the tape by the person making the seal

Outer Packaging

Polystyrene foam-insulated corrugated fiberboard shippers

Do not ship blood tubes and frozen urine cups in the same package

Ship at 1°C-10°C

• Place absorbent material in the bottom of the shipper
• Add a layer of refrigerator packs
• Place secondary packaging on top of refrigerator packs
• Add additional cushioning material to minimize shifting during transport
• Add an additional layer of refrigerator packs

Ship to ensure specimens remain frozen or freeze while in transport

• Place absorbent material in the bottom of the shipper
• Add a layer of dry ice (Do not use large chunks/flakes)
• Place secondary packaging on top of dry ice
• Add additional cushioning material to minimize shifting during transport
• Add an additional layer of dry ice

Documentation

• Since blood tubes and urine cups are shipped separately, prepare a separate shipping manifest for each
• Place shipping manifest in a sealable plastic bag on top of specimens before closing lid of shipper

Step 3: SHIPPING PREPARATIONS

• Secure outer packaging tops and bottoms with filamentous shipping tape
• Affix labels and markings adjacent to the shipper/consignee’s address
• Place a UN3373 diamond marking on the shipper
• Place the proper shipping name, “Biological substance, Category B” adjacent to the UN3373 marking
• For packages containing dry ice, place a Class B Hazard Label on the same side of the shipper as the UN3373 marking. If the proper shipping name, either “dry ice” or “carbon dioxide solid,” and UN1845 is not preprinted on the hazard label, add a \( \triangleleft \) adjacent to the label. Note the weight of dry ice on the preprinted area of the hazard label
• Orientation arrows are not required
• Complete an airway bill if transported by a commercial air carrier

Step 4: SHIPPING SPECIMENS
Laboratory Approval Required

Wadsworth Center
NYS Department of Health
Dock J-P1 Level
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Follow your facility’s policy to maintain proper COC of specimens

This publication is supported in part by cooperative agreement number 5U50CO18268
from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The content are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

January 2007