




CLINICAL SPECIMENS

Exempt Human Specimen

Shipping and Transport

Exempt Patient Specimens (Minimal likelihood that pathogens are present)

Hazards	Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When determining whether a patient specimen has a minimal likelihood that pathogens are present, an element of professional judgment is required. Base judgement on the known medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source and endemic local conditions. Continue to follow Universal/Standard Precautions. Refer to Guideline for handling Human Blood and Body Fluids If using dry ice, additional training is required. See Training.
		
Specimen Packaging	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab coat (or gown/tyvek, etc.) and gloves required when packaging, but not needed for transport. Mucous membrane protection (e.g. safety glasses or face shield) is worn if there's a potential for splash or spray such as when handling specimens and cleaning up spills. Remove PPE prior to leaving the area. Wash hands.
	Packaging for local hand-carrying (walking) transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each <u>leakproof primary container</u> (e.g., tube, cup) is wrapped/stabilized/sealed. Use a closed, leak-proof, biohazard-labeled secondary container to transport materials. Secondary container is clean so PPE is not needed or worn during local hand-carry. Place absorbent material inside secondary container sufficient to absorb entire contents. If using dry ice, place in outer container only, close lid; DO NOT tape-seal the outer container.
	Packaging and Labeling for Shipping	<p>The package must have three layers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Specimen is in a <u>leakproof primary container</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use secondary closure (adhesive tape/friction sleeves/parafilm) around primary containers or leakproof liner when it is not possible to apply a secondary means of closure. Wrap or separate multiple fragile primary containers to prevent contact. For specimens in flammable fixative, place containers in a plastic bag that can be heat-sealed. Any free liquid in the bag must not exceed 30 mL. Place in another bag containing absorbent material and then heat-seal. <u>Total of fixative is not more than 1L.</u> <u>Leakproof secondary container</u>. If shipping USPS, apply biohazard label. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorbent material inside secondary container sufficient to absorb entire contents. <u>Rigid outer shipping container</u> with proper shipping name "Exempt Human Specimen". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For dry ice, miscellaneous Class 9 label, "UN 1845" and amount used in kg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REMEMBER, <u>do not seal</u> the container tight or the package may explode during transit. Shipper and consignee details on the same surface of the package near the proper shipping name marking.
	Shipping papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate the shipment is not a dangerous good. For dry ice, check the "Dry Ice" box and indicate "UN 1845" and the quantity of dry ice in kg. For flammable fixatives, the words "not restricted" and the special provision number A180 must be included in the description of the substance.
	Spills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the Emergency Response Guide or Poster located in your work area for more information.
	Exposures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin exposures with soap and water. For eye exposures, flood eyes with water from eyewash station or sink. Obtain medical attention, if necessary. Report exposures to EOHW by dialing the BBF Hotline at 919-684-8115. Complete the "Report a Work-Related Accident, Injury, or Illness" form.
	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete minimum safety training requirements for your job. Complete the online <i>Bloodborne Pathogens Training</i> (or <i>BSL-2/BBP</i> training if working in a designated BSL-2 laboratory) at www.safety.duke.edu. Follow Training&Reports, then Online Training. If using dry ice, complete <i>Shipping Biological Materials</i> training at the same link. All personnel shall read and fully adhere to this SOP.
	Questions	Contact OESO - Biological Safety Division at 919-684-8822 or biosafety@duke.edu