

## Specimen Packaging

- ❖ Identification and labeling of specimen containers:
  - i. Identify and label **all ophthalmology specimen containers** with the following information:
    - a) Two unique patient identifiers (name and medical record number or date of birth)
    - b) Physician's name
    - c) Type and location of the specimen: (i.e.: corneal button, left eye)
    - d) Formalin warning label
  - ii. Make sure that a well-constructed container with a secure lid is used.
  - iii. Specimen containers must be labeled with the above information at the time of the procedure and before the container leaves the procedure room.
- ❖ Specimens being transported for “investigational purposes” are fully regulated by IATA (International Air Transport Association) and the DOT (Department of Transportation).
  - i) Diagnostic specimens that are not suspected to contain a highly pathogenic organism are shipped as “Exempt Patient Specimens” or “Exempt Animal Specimen” providing:
    - a) the specimen has been placed in a fixative
    - b) the fixative is 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin
  - ii) The Diagnostic Specimen must be packed in a triple packaging system.
    - a) The primary receptacle must be packed in a way, that under normal conditions of transport, they can not break, be punctured, or leak their contents into the secondary package. This receptacle can not exceed a volumetric capacity of more than 500 ml.
      - i) Lids should be reinforced with tape.
      - ii) The primary receptacle must be labeled with a formalin warning sticker.
    - b) Absorbent material must be placed between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging. If more than one receptacle is placed into a single secondary package, wrap each receptacle with absorbent material. The absorbent material must be of sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents of the primary receptacle(s).
    - c) The secondary package must be leak proof and labeled with a biohazard sticker.
    - d) The secondary package(s) need to be secured in the outer package with suitable cushioning materials such that any leakage of the contents will not impair the protective properties of the cushioning material.
    - e) The patient’s paperwork and an itemized list of contents must be enclosed outside of the secondary package and within the outer package.
    - f) For shipments by aircraft, the primary receptacle or the secondary packaging must be capable of withstanding, without leaking, an internal pressure differential of not less than 95 k Pa(95 bar, 14 psi).
    - g) The outer package must be marked with:
      - i) Exempt Human Specimen
    - h) The outer package may not exceed 4L (1 gallon) capacity.
    - i) The outer package must be at least 4 inches in smallest dimension.