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DOCUMENT TITLE: Use of Yellow (Special Handling) Biohazard Bag to Transport Blood Specime
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Use of Yellow Biohazard Bag to Transport Specimens

Purpose

This procedure provides instructions to ensure the proper segregation of specimens which require non-routine handling by staff upon receipt at SCPMG Regional Reference Laboratories (RRL).

Use of the yellow plastic biohazard bag labeled with “Specimen for Special Handling” and “Specimen(s) with Multiple Tests (Shared Samples)” alerts staff at the RRL of special handling and/or testing requirements.

Some examples of yellow bag use include:

- Short specimens (quantity/volume)
- Shared sample specimens
- Specimens drawn in a pediatric/microtainer (bullet) collection tube
- Specimens with multiple/serial draw times (e.g. suppression/stimulating study)
- Other specimens which require non-routine handling by staff upon receipt at RRL

Scope

This procedure is intended for laboratory staff processing specimens for transport to SCPMG Regional Reference Laboratories.

Materials

Yellow plastic biohazard bags (approximately 8 x 12 inches in size) are supplied for processing staff use at the collection sites/medical centers and are pre-printed on each side as shown below:

KAISER PERMANENTE
Medical Care Program

Southern California Permanente Medical Group
Regional Reference Laboratories
11668 Sherman Way
North Hollywood, CA 91605
(888) 4LAB-NPC, or line 397-7077

SPECIMENS FOR SPECIAL HANDLING

•Call Regional Lab Client Service Center to inform the RRL to expect a specimen requiring special handling or testing

•Include the special handling or testing instruction in the bag. Place instruction inside "Pocket A"

BIOHAZARD

Outside Pocket "B"

Specimen(s) with Multiple Tests (Shared Samples)

This bag is intended for short/single samples with multiple tests in different departments

FOR SHORT SAMPLES PLEASE LIST IN ORDER OF PROVIDER'S PRIORITY

Affix Barcodes	Regional Lab, Specimen Processing Dept use only
	Testing Department: _____ Delivery Date/Time: _____ Received by: _____ Specimen Returned to BPO Date/Time: _____ Received by: _____
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Use of Yellow Biohazard Bag to Transport Specimens, Continued

Safety

Refer to the safety manual for general safety requirements.

**Procedure-
 Short/Shared
 Specimens**

Follow the steps below for short and/or shared specimens which are to be submitted in the yellow biohazard bag.

Step	Action	
1	For short and/or shared specimens, contact provider to determine testing priority.	
2	Verify that the specimen(s) are labeled with patient name and medical record number (MRN). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place specimen(s) in yellow bag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multiple sources should be in separate yellow bags • Use only 1 bag per patient/per source • Always place label for priority test on specimen, additional labels may be placed on the specimen if space allows. NOTE: Do not place ANY loose labels in the bag. All labels must be placed on the specimen or on the outside of the bag to signify priority.	
3	If the specimen is... A short specimen, for multiple tests that require an unopened primary tube [e.g., HIV, HBSAG, AAHEP, etc.,] OR “Hard to collect”	Then... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the collection label for the priority test is affixed to the primary container/tube. • Reprint accession labels for each test • Affix the reprinted labels to the outside of the bag according to priority designated by the provider (highest priority on top).
	Drawn in a microtainer (bullet) collection tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure primary pediatric/microtainer has the proper identification information. • Reprint accession labels for each test • Affix the reprinted labels to the outside of the bag according to priority designated by the provider (highest priority on top).

**Procedure-
 Other Unique
 Specimens**

Follow steps below for other unique specimens which are to be submitted in a yellow biohazard bag.											
1	See step 3 below for examples on unique tests which also require use of the yellow bag.										
2	<p>Verify that the specimen(s) are labeled with patient name and medical record number (MRN).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place specimen(s) in yellow bag For blood specimens only: Multiple (differing) patients for the same test can share 1 yellow bag. For example T cell panel sent to Flow Cytometry. 										
3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If the specimen is...</th> <th>Then...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>For a test that includes multiple/serial draw times</td> <td>Verify that all multiple/serial specimens are submitted in yellow bag.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MPGL/Flow Cytometry specimens shipped in grey or purple regional totes</td> <td>Verify properly labeled specimens designated for MPGL/Flow Cytometry are placed in yellow bag.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Has “Yellow Bag” special handling on Cerner label OR is an Immunosuppressant Drug: (e.g., Everolimus Tacrolimus Sirolimus Cyclosporine Methotrexate)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place into the Yellow Bag and transport on the next available courier. <p>NOTE: Refer to LabNet for testing schedule.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Requires unique handling by RRL (e.g., CJD, Tumor Marker Manual Quantitation [Dilution], Outside Referral Lab, etc.)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place any related paperwork inside the bag with the specimen(s). Call RRL Client Service Center at 1-818-503-7077 tie line 397 to announce the arrival of a specimen requiring special handling/testing. <p>NOTE: Client Service Center will document the case and create a Special Intercept form.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If the specimen is...	Then...	For a test that includes multiple/serial draw times	Verify that all multiple/serial specimens are submitted in yellow bag.	MPGL/Flow Cytometry specimens shipped in grey or purple regional totes	Verify properly labeled specimens designated for MPGL/Flow Cytometry are placed in yellow bag.	Has “Yellow Bag” special handling on Cerner label OR is an Immunosuppressant Drug: (e.g., Everolimus Tacrolimus Sirolimus Cyclosporine Methotrexate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place into the Yellow Bag and transport on the next available courier. <p>NOTE: Refer to LabNet for testing schedule.</p>	Requires unique handling by RRL (e.g., CJD, Tumor Marker Manual Quantitation [Dilution], Outside Referral Lab, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place any related paperwork inside the bag with the specimen(s). Call RRL Client Service Center at 1-818-503-7077 tie line 397 to announce the arrival of a specimen requiring special handling/testing. <p>NOTE: Client Service Center will document the case and create a Special Intercept form.</p>
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Use of Yellow Biohazard Bag to Transport Specimens, Continued

**Procedure-
Final Steps**

Follow the steps below for transporting the yellow biohazard bag(s) to RRL.

Step	Action
1	Verify that specimen(s) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entered/scanned in the laboratory specimen tracking system• Packed according to specimen temperature requirement.
2	Seal the yellow bag(s).
3	Follow the established process for delivery to RRL

**Controlled
Documents**

The following controlled documents support this policy.

Packing and Transporting of Clinical Pathology and Cytology Specimens to the Regional Laboratories
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Authors

- PreAnalytical Processing Working Group
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Signature Manifest

Document Number: SBMC-PPP-0549

Revision: 02

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Initial Approval

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Jay Raymund Castaneto (K258559)	Assistant Lab Director	24 Aug 2023, 04:08:49 PM	Approved

Operations Director Approval

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Janice Wolf (K119893)	Director Operations Area Lab	25 Aug 2023, 10:46:17 AM	Approved

Medical Director Approval

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Sony Wirio (A478893)	Pathologist, Medical Director	25 Aug 2023, 08:06:39 PM	Approved