


Date: May 20, 2016

LABORATORY ALERT

Subject: Purple Bags for Irreplaceable Specimens

The Laboratory is informing you of the following change:

Effective date:	June 23, 2016
Purpose:	Use of purple bags to prevent loss of irreplaceable specimens
General Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As specimens are received into lab, separate irreplaceable specimens. • Immediately place in designated purple bags (one specimen per bag). • Specimen remains in a purple bag until send out process steps are completed and specimen is handed off to the courier or in house testing is performed.
<p>Examples of irreplaceable specimens: Body cavity fluids (synovial, pleural, peritoneal, ascites) Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Cord blood Fine needle biopsies/aspirations Lavages, washings, or brushings Meconium (for drug screening) Products of Conception (for chromosome analysis) Stones Tissue biopsy or bone marrows</p>	 <p>The image shows a purple specimen bag with the following details: - Top section: 'Instructions' with bullet points: 'Place the specimen container(s) in the front pouch (printed side)', 'Place the test requisition in rear pouch (unprinted side) with barcode visible in the bottom corner of the bag.', 'Press slip-lock firmly across entire length of slip', 'Do not staple', 'One specimen bag per patient per temperature requirement', 'Indicate the transport temperature by checking one of the boxes below'. - Middle section: 'IRREPLACEABLE SPECIMEN' header, three checkboxes for 'Room Temperature', 'Refrigerate', and 'Frozen'. - Right side: 'Sequential Bar Code Laminated White Back' label. - Bottom section: Quest Diagnostics logo and name, and 'IRREPLACEABLE SPECIMEN' footer. - Vertical text on sides: 'IRREPLACEABLE SPECIMEN'.</p>
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