KAISER PERMANENTE®
COLORADO LABORATORY

FROZEN SPECIMEN TRANSPORT

Purpose

Proper handling throughout specimen collection and transportation is essential for maintaining specimen integrity. If a collected specimen is transported under improper conditions the laboratory testing results can be altered, leading to misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment of the patient. It is imperative to establish and follow step-by-step procedures in the handling and transport of specimens. The cool cubes are used to insure that frozen specimen integrity is maintained during transport through the Kaiser Courier system.

Supplies

Cool Cube - Part # NC 9556273, Fisher Scientific, 1.5"L x 1.5"W x 4.5"H, 4/pk

Procedure

MOL

1. Cool cubes should be in the freezer for minimum of **3** hours before use. (this varies, depending on temperature of freezer used).
2. Specimens should be frozen solid over night before transporting.
3. Place each frozen specimen in a cool cube and place in an individual specimen bag with pocket.
4. Place transfer list in pocket and place in separate small cooler with one or two ice packs.
5. If more than one frozen specimen, place all individual bags in a larger bag with one or two ice packs.
6. If transporting a STAT by MLS courier **who has dry ice**:
    a. Remove specimen bag from freezer and tell driver to place immediately on dry ice for transport.
    b. If driver does not have dry ice, follow step 4.
    c. Tell driver to inform receiving lab that it is a frozen specimen.
7. When cool cubes are returned by RRL, place in freezer for next use.

RRL

1. When cooler or specimen bag is delivered:
    a. Remove Cool Cube from bag.
    b. ** Check all frozen specimen Quest/reference lab bags for cool cubes.
    c. Follow standard operating procedures for handling frozen specimens.
    d. Place empty cool cube in bin for return to MOL.