

PROTOCOL FOR SHIPPING SAMPLES

Paperwork

Please include paperwork with every specimen sent. This is very important. Information is needed as follows: specimen type, requesting physician, date and time specimen is obtained, reason for study, test(s) requested, any pertinent clinical history of patient, billing information (who should be billed), and insurance information. **Patient history and request forms for each specimen type are available in the forms section of the web site.**

Amniotic Fluid Specimens

Amniotic fluid should be shipped in sterile containers (capped syringes*, centrifuge tubes, or amber collection tubes) with the patient's name clearly labeled on each container. A minimum of 20cc is requested. The specimen should be sent at room temperature for same day or next day delivery.

*If you are using BD syringes, please transfer specimen to another sterile container for transport.

CVS Specimens

CVS specimens should be sent as soon as possible after collection in sterile tissue transport medium. A minimum of 15mg is requested. Tissue transport medium is available upon request without charge by contacting the Department of Genetics Cytogenetics Lab. The specimen should be sent at room temperature. If a delay is necessary, a specimen can be stored in the refrigerator in a nutrient medium until transport is possible, then sent at room temperature.

Solid Tissue Specimens (i.e. POC, placenta, chorionic villi, skin biopsy)

Tissue specimens should be sent as soon as possible after collection in sterile tissue culture medium (i.e. RPMI, MEM, McCoys). Tissue transport medium is available upon request without charge by contacting the Department of Genetics Cytogenetics Lab. If culture medium is not available, sterile saline may be added to keep specimen moist during transport. **DO NOT place specimen in a fixative solution (i.e. formalin).** The specimen should be sent at room temperature. If a delay is necessary, a specimen can be stored in the refrigerator in a nutrient medium until transport is possible, then sent at room temperature.

Peripheral blood specimens

Blood specimens (5-10cc) should be shipped in a SODIUM HEPARINIZED vacutainer. Specimens collected in lithium heparin or EDTA cannot be used for chromosome analysis. Specimens should be transported as soon as possible at room temperature. For best results, chromosome analysis should commence the same day the specimen is drawn.

Bone marrow specimens

Special tubes for bone marrow specimens are available upon request. Specimens should be transported as soon as possible at room temperature. For best results, chromosome analysis should commence the same day the specimen is drawn.

****ALL SAMPLES MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED****

Please address specimens as follows:

Attn: Dr. Andrew Carroll
UAB Department of Genetics
720 20th Street South, Room 314
Birmingham, AL 35294-0024

Please call to inform us when a specimen is to arrive. We received specimens during office hours which are 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Monday through Friday.

For questions about shipping samples, please call (205) 934-9570 or (205) 934-9555.