

SOP: SRS-SOP 202 Version No: 06 Effective Date:11/20/2015	Transporting and/or Shipping of Biological Specimens for Research	Supersedes Document Dated: 03/15/2013
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Committee for Research Safety Original Date: 03/01/2001

A. Internal Transport of specimens (within Durham VA and Duke Facilities)

- Laboratory specimens should be transported so that the integrity of the specimen and safety of the personnel and the transport system is maintained.
- Observe universal precautions and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling and transporting specimens. Biohazard labels must be placed on all specimens.
- Do not transport specimens in a syringe or other container bearing a needle.
- Transport reusable sharps in a leak proof, puncture-resistant container.

B. Biological Specimen Land or Air Shipping Requirements:

- Package specimens properly to protect them in transit as well as to protect the personnel handling them. Never mail a specimen in Petri plates. Never enclose dry ice in airtight (hermetically sealed) containers.
- Specimens shall be packed, packaged and labeled in full accordance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) requirements. All shipments originating from Durham VAMC Research & Development must comply with the Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).
- **“Proper Shipment of Biological Materials”** training is required by staff who package biological materials for land or air transport. Training must be renewed at least every two years. To receive training you may use CITI Program at www.citiprogram.org or use the Duke module at <http://www.safety.duke.edu> . Print the Certificate of Completion and submit it to the Research Office along **with** this completed and signed SOP.
- Step by step packaging guidelines can be found at on the Duke OESO Safety website at or as an attachment in the Research Laboratory Safety Manual

C. Principal Investigator (PI) Affirmation:

I have read and will comply with the above guidance. _____
PI Name (Print)

PI Signature
Date

References: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) dangerous goods guidelines

List all staff that will package biological materials for land or air transport.

Approved by: Sub-committee for Research Safety

Date: 11-20-2015