

VIII Packaging specimens for the Courier Service

1. Place specimen container in a plastic bag with the request form outside the bag. Then place the specimens in a rigid container, and keep specimens upright to minimize the possibility of spillage.
2. Specimens to be sent via the Courier Service of the Department of Health should be segregated according to specialties as detailed in various sections of this Guide.
3. Place specimens for each specialty within separate transparent plastic bags with the designated coloured label as follows:
 - Histology & Cytology - Blue
 - Microbiology
 - Blood specimens (Serology) - White
 - Microbiology studies (excluding viology & mycobacteriology) - Yellow
 - Mycobacteriology (TB) - Pink
 - Virology studies - Orange
 - Non-Clinical Microbiology - No designated label
 - Chemical Pathology & Haematology (CPLC) - Green
4. Please ensure that specimens for CPLC are packed separately in a transparent plastic bag containing the green label of CPLC. ***Do not place any specimen from other specialties into the CPLC bag.***
5. Hand over specimen packs to the Courier Service for delivery to the laboratory according to the timetable of the calling points.
6. For further information on specimen packaging and transportation, please refer to the guideline available at:
http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/safety_guidelines_for_courier_team_2009nov.pdf
or for a Chinese version at:
http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/safety_guidelines_for_courier_team_2009nov_tc.pdf