

Infection Prevention and Control Manual – Long-term Care

Part 3 – IPC Standards

IC5: Routine Practice

IC5: Specimen Handling and Transport

1.0 STANDARD

All specimens are considered infectious and will be collected appropriately and handled in a manner to limit the exposure to blood and body fluids. All staff shall follow Routine Practices when handling specimens.

2.1 PROCEDURE

Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specimens will be transported in a manner that will limit the risk exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF) 	
Within Facility	
Specimen Container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specimen container is considered soiled and should be handled with gloves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene must be performed when gloves are removed Ensure that all specimen containers are sealed properly – do not send containers that are leaking or contaminated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the outside of the container is visible contaminated, it must be wiped with a hospital grade disinfectant The specimen container must have a secured lid; BBF aspirates must not be transported in a syringe with needle attached
Transport Bag or Container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specimen container must be sealed in a plastic bag and/or a transport caddy
Identifying Specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specimens must be labeled appropriately and set to the laboratory as soon as possible
Pneumatic Tubes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place the closed or sealed plastic bag into the pneumatic capsule and send Receiving department staff should don non-sterile gloves, remove plastic bag with specimen and wipe out pneumatic tube transport capsule with hospital grade disinfectant wipe following manufacturer’s instructions For spillage and leakage of BBF in the pneumatic tube system contact Facilities Maintenance and Operations (FMO) for appropriate steps in notification
Between Facilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transportation regulations will be observed when transporting specimens between laboratories Information about the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) is available through the Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Pulse page 	

3.0 REFERENCES

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings.\[Internet\]. 2017.](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practicesprecautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html) Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practicesprecautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html>
2. Public Health Ontario. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions. [Internet]. 2012. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Infection-Prevention-Control/Routine-Practices-AdditionalPrecautions>