

**Section 6: Specimen Collection,
Storage and Transportation Antibiotic
Resistant Organisms**

Policy number: **6.1**

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Subject: **Collection and Transportation
of Laboratory Specimens**

Revised:

Distribution: **All FNIHB Staff**

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Proper sample collection of laboratory specimens, as well as their handling and transport, are key factors in obtaining a valid and timely laboratory test result and ultimately in delivering quality client care. Specimens must be obtained using proper technique, collected in the proper container, correctly labeled (in the presence of the client), accompanied by the correct lab requisition, packaged, and promptly transported to the laboratory in compliance with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. All specimens should be handled with routine practices as if they are hazardous and infectious.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 All staff authorized to obtain laboratory samples within the scope of their practice, must follow Public Health Ontario's guidelines regarding specimen collection, handling and transportation. If private labs are used, staff must follow their requirements as identified by the specific laboratory.
- 2.2 All staff must collect specimen, handle, classify, label, complete requisition, package and transport laboratory specimens in accordance with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. All specimens must be handled with routine practices as if they are hazardous and infectious.

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Refer to the most current version of the Public Health Ontario guidelines regarding specimen collection, handling and transportation or to the specific guidelines of the private lab being utilized in the respective Zone.
- 3.2 The most current information from Public Health Ontario regarding specimen collection, handling and transportation is available at
<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Specimen-Collection.aspx>
- 3.3 The most current version of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods is available at
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-download-372.htm>

4 REFERENCES

Department of Justice Canada. (2015). Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. Retrieved from: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm>

Public Health Ontario. (2012). Laboratory Materials: Specimen Collection Guide. Retrieved from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Specimen-Collection.aspx>

Public Health Ontario. (2012). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all Health Care Settings. Retrieved from: http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP_All_HealthCare_Settings_Eng2012.pdf