



SECTION: PATIENT RELATED INFECTION CONTROL

NUMBER: 2.14

### LABORATORY SPECIMENS

**PURPOSE:** To protect personnel in patient-care areas and in the laboratories from potentially infectious laboratory specimens.

**POLICY:** Laboratory specimens from all patients will be considered potentially infectious.

- PROCEDURE:**
1. All specimens will be single-bagged in a zip-lock bag by the person obtaining the specimen.
  2. The outside of specimen containers should be clean. Visibly soiled containers may be rejected by the laboratory.
  3. Since all specimens are considered contaminated by laboratory staff, it is not necessary to label the specimens with biohazardous stickers.
  4. Specimens that are sent to laboratories outside of the Health Center must be properly packaged and labeled. Additional information can be obtained by calling Laboratory Medicine or Research Safety.

**REFERENCE:** Centers for Disease Control. Recommendations for Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health Care Settings. MMWR. 1987; 36: 3s-18s.

**APPROVAL:** Infection Control Committee

**REVISION DATES:** 1/09

**REVIEWED DATES:**