

November 2022

Memo: Packaging Warm Specimens (i.e., Cryoglobulin and Cold Agglutinin Samples)

Who is this message for:

Clients of the New York Hospital Laboratories (NYHL)

What is this message about:

Effective December 5, 2022, samples requiring transportation at 37°C must be placed in a red transport tote bag containing two activated instant hot packs **immediately** after collection. **Cryoglobulin specimens not transported at 37°C or received after 6 hours of collection will be canceled.**

Why is this information important:

To maintain the stability of specimens requiring transport at 37°C and ensure accurate, reliable results.

What we need from you:

Package warm specimens immediately after collection to maintain the required 37°C temperature during transport:

1. Label and package the specimen in a specimen bag.
2. Fold requisition so the Lab CSN #/Requisition # barcode located on the upper-right section is visible, and place it in the outer pocket of the specimen bag.
3. Activate two disposable instant hot packs by squeezing sides firmly where indicated, and knead the pack well to mix contents.
4. Place an activated instant hot pack into each of the two interior panel pockets of the red transport tote bag.
5. Package each patient's specimen(s) and requisition into a clear specimen bag and place into the center pocket of the red transport tote bag, ensuring tube(s) are not in direct contact with either hot pack.
 - Up to 2 specimen tubes can be placed into a single red transport tote bag.
6. Zip the red tote bag completely closed to maintain the warm temperature, and place it in the specimen box for pick up.
7. **Call Logistics immediately for a time-sensitive pick-up at 212-746-0669 to ensure prompt transport to the lab. Please indicate that a warm specimen needs to be transported.**

For any questions, please contact:

Your Laboratory Sales Representative or call Client Services at (212) 746-0670 and ask to speak to a Supervisor.

Detailed Description of the new feature/change:

- The red transport tote bags are labeled with the NYP logo and should only be utilized for specimens directed to NYHL that must be maintained at 37°C, such as Cryoglobulin specimens.
- Request a replenishment of your supply of red transport bags and instant hot packs using the standard process for supply requests from the NYHL Logistics Team and indicate the quantity requested in the "Thermoregulated Supplies" section of the Supply Request Form.

