



## Packaging Clinical Samples

Follow these instructions for packaging, marking, and labelling clinical samples for shipment via FedEx Express® services.



## Guidelines for Clinical Samples

This brochure outlines the requirements for shipping with FedEx Express. In addition, all shipments must comply with all applicable local, provincial, state, and federal laws governing packing, marking, and labelling. Blood, urine, fluids, and other specimens containing or suspected of containing infectious substances must be shipped according to applicable government, International Air Transport Association (IATA), and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations.

For the purposes of this guide, clinical samples are generally defined as non-infectious human or animal materials including, but not limited to, excreta, secretions, tissue and tissue fluids, blood, and FDA-approved pharmaceuticals that are blood products.

## General Packaging Guidelines

### Liquid Samples

- 1. Primary watertight inner receptacle.** Use watertight containers for liquid specimens with a positive closure such as a screw-on, snap-on, or push-on lid, taped for an additional seal. If you place multiple fragile primary receptacles in a single secondary receptacle, individually wrap or separate them to prevent contact between them.
- 2. Absorbent material.** Place absorbent material between the primary and secondary receptacles, using enough material to absorb the entire contents of all primary receptacles. Suggested absorbent materials include cellulose wadding, cotton balls, super-absorbent packets, and paper towels.
- 3. Secondary watertight inner receptacle.** Use a watertight sealed plastic bag, plastic canister, or screw-cap can.
- 4. Sturdy outer packaging.** Use rigid outer packaging constructed of corrugated fiberboard, wood, metal, plastic, or other equally strong material, including cylinders made of such materials and appropriately sized for the contents. Chipboard or paperboard boxes, paper envelopes, and plastic bags are unacceptable outer packaging. The completed packaging must be of good quality, strong enough to withstand the normal rigors of transportation without loss of contents as a result of vibration, changes in temperature, humidity, or pressure.

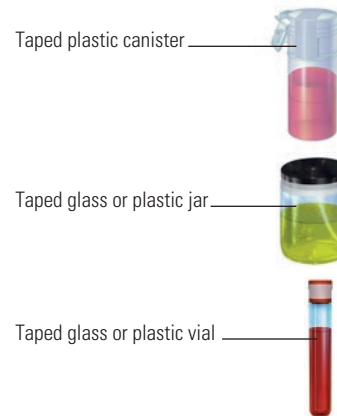
## Dried Samples

Place dried samples, including but not limited to hair, swabs, or dried blood, into a sealed paper or plastic envelope and then into a 15.24 cm x 20.32 cm (6" x 8") or larger mailing envelope. Cushion samples on glass or plastic slides and package in a sturdy outer container to prevent breakage and puncturing.

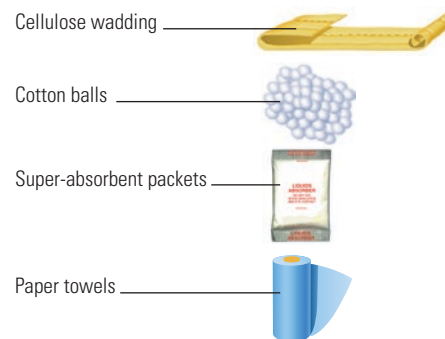
**NOTE:** If the dried sample is placed in a receptacle with a liquid preservative, then follow the packaging guidelines for liquids.

## Packaging Examples

### Primary Watertight Receptacles



### Absorbent Materials



### Secondary Watertight Receptacles



## Marking and Labelling

Mark the package as “Exempt Human Specimen” or “Exempt Animal Specimen” as appropriate. If you prefer, package markings may be in the form of a label.

## FedEx Clinical Packaging Options

For your convenience, we offer the FedEx® Clinical Pak as a packaging option for exempt clinical sample shipments. We recommend the FedEx Clinical Pak for use when the sturdy outer packaging of your properly packaged shipment is smaller than 18 cm x 10 cm x 5 cm (7" x 4" x 2") (minimum acceptable package size).

To help ensure the timely delivery of your shipment and the safety of shipments exposed to yours, our clinical paks and boxes help your clinical shipments stand apart from other shipments. To order the FedEx Clinical Pak, call 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339.

### FedEx Clinical Pak



### Packaging Guidelines for FedEx Clinical Paks

- The FedEx Clinical Pak is an overwrap primarily designed for easy identification and to handle smaller completed packages.
- The FedEx Clinical Pak can only be used to ship clinical samples. If you need an overpack for shipments containing Biological Substance, Category B (UN 3373) materials, use the FedEx UN 3373 Pak.
- Liquid blood and liquid blood products must always be placed in sturdy outer packaging before being placed in the FedEx Clinical Pak.

**NOTICE:** This packaging brochure is provided to FedEx customers to help reduce loss or damage due to improper packaging. It is NOT intended to be a comprehensive guide for packaging items we accept for transit. We make no warranties, expressed or implied, regarding this information. Proper packaging is the sole responsibility of the shipper. For more information and additional guidelines, see the packaging tips page at [fedex.ca/packaging](https://www.fedex.ca/packaging). Refer to the current FedEx Service Guide at [fedex.ca](https://www.fedex.ca) for terms, conditions and limitations applicable to FedEx® delivery services.  
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- The FedEx Clinical Pak can be used to ship dried samples when packaged according to the dried sample guidelines.
- Shipments marked or labelled as hazard/dangerous goods class 6.2 (infectious materials) and shipments containing dry ice cannot be shipped in FedEx packaging.

If you have questions about whether your shipments require a biohazard label, consult the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for the applicable regulations.

**NOTE:** You may drop off properly packaged clinical samples in most FedEx Express Drop Boxes.

- FedEx Office® locations accept FedEx clinical shipments that are not classified as Biological Substance, Category B (UN 3373).
- FedEx Ship Centre locations accept non-infectious clinical shipments, as well as shipments classified as Biological Substance, Category B (UN 3373).
- FedEx Authorized Ship Centre® locations do not accept clinical or UN 3373 shipments.

For more information, visit [fedex.ca](https://www.fedex.ca) or call 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339 to be directed to a FedEx location equipped to handle these shipments.

## Contacts and Resources

- Packaging tips page at [fedex.ca/packaging](https://www.fedex.ca/packaging).
- FedEx Dangerous Goods Hotline; call 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339 and say “dangerous goods.”

### NOTICE:

**FedEx Express will refuse to accept packages that do not meet FedEx Express, government, or IATA and ICAO requirements. This brochure is in no way intended to replace requirements mandated by the Canadian Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations and IATA. This is for informational purposes only.**