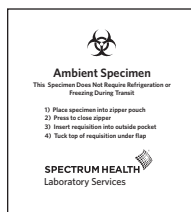


# Specimen Integrity

Spectrum Health Laboratory Services is committed to specimen integrity. Specimen integrity directly affects the quality of laboratory results.

## Spectrum Health Specimen Bags

Using the correct specimen bags for transportation to the laboratory can help ensure that all specimens arrive at the correct temperature for testing and are processed in the shortest possible time. Using the correct bags also plays a major role in reducing the number of patient re-draws.



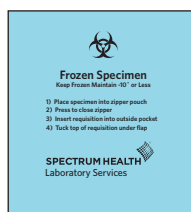
### Ambient Bags

- These white bags are for specimens that need to maintain room temperature.
- Common specimens for this transport temperature:
  - Protimes (unspun)
  - Tissue specimens in formalin
  - Thin prep/Pap smear vials
  - CBCs



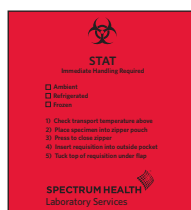
### Refrigerated Bags

- These green bags are for specimens that need to be kept refrigerated.
- Common specimens for the green bag transport temperature:
  - Urine specimens
  - Chemistry profiles
  - M5RT viral cultures



### Frozen Bags

- These blue/teal bags are for specimens that need to be kept frozen.
- Most frozen testing requires the specimen to be spun and poured over before freezing. If you have questions about freezing specimens, call the Laboratory Call Center at 616.774.7721.



### STAT Bags

- These red bags are for specimens that need to be run immediately upon arrival in the laboratory.
- Use these bags when:
  - The patient's condition requires immediate laboratory results.
- Using a red STAT bag is the best way to ensure immediate laboratory services.



### Priority Bags

- These purple bags are for specimens that need to be handled and processed immediately upon receipt in laboratory, or the integrity of the specimen will be compromised.
- Use these bags when:
  - specimens are sent to the lab unspun or unprocessed
  - specific test has time sensitive requirements (Examples: TB Spot test, Blood Cultures, Ammonia, ImmuKnow, Lymphocyte Blastogenesis Mitogens)