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# Packing Specimens for Transport to MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory

Properly packing and transporting specimens will ensure the most accurate results for your patients.

#### Proper Steps in Packing Specimens:

1. Securely close all specimen containers to prevent leaking.
2. Place an individual patient’s specimen(s) in the zip lock portion of the MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory Specimen biohazard bag. Seal the bag.
3. Fold the patient’s completed test requisition and place the form in the outside pocket of the specimen bag. Double check the patient identification on the requisition matches the patient identification on the specimen tube.
4. Store the specimen under proper conditions for the test(s) (room temperature, refrigerated or frozen). Refer to the MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory Test Directory for specimen handling instructions.

**NOTES:**

Please package only **1** patient’s specimen(s) and test request per zip lock bag.

Histology and/or Cytology samples should be placed in a separate bag which includes a test order requisition so these specimens can be quickly routed to the appropriate laboratory department upon arrival at MercyOne.

#### Errors in packing and transport can cause delays in testing (and interruptions in work flows). The following can cause a delay in testing:

* Sending a patient’s specimen(s) without the test request.
* Sending a patient’s test request without specimens.
* Sending specimens and a test request with no tests marked.
* Sending unlabeled specimens or specimens that do not match the name on the test request.