

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS - sending fresh samples

***** Note: We are not able to accept samples designated, or suspected, as being "High Risk" (i.e. from patients with HIV, hepatitis, CJD etc)***

General Information & Contact details

All specimens must be sent **by prior arrangement** by contacting:

Dr. Lucy Feng, Clinical scientist, Email: lucy.feng@gosh.nhs.uk , Tel: 02034484235
Or
Dr. Rahul Phadke, Consultant neuropathologist, Email: rahul.phadke@uclh.nhs.uk,
Tel: 02034484393

All samples should be addressed to:

Dr. Lucy Feng
Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre
1st Floor, Department of Neuropathology
Institute of Neurology
Queen Square House
Queen Square
London WC1N 3BG
UK
Tel: 020 34484235
Fax: 02034484486

Write the telephone number 020 3448 4235 on top of the parcel

For **NSCT** referral, please enclose a completed NSCT Referral Form, any relevant clinical information and the previous biopsy report.

The Laboratory opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9 AM- 5:00 PM
Please do not send samples for arrival on a Saturday or Sunday. The best days to send samples are Monday to Wednesday.

Samples/containers must be clearly labelled with the patient name and date of birth or another second identifier (e.g. hospital number, laboratory specimen number)

Samples must be packed and shipped following packaging instruction 650 for diagnostic specimens. The advice given in this document complies with instruction 650. Further information can be found in the HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>.

**SAMPLES THAT ARE NOT SENT ACCORDING TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY NOT BE
SUITABLE FOR ANALYSIS**

Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS- fresh samples March 2014
Final

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust

NCG National Referral Centre for Congenital Muscular Dystrophies and Myopathies

Head of Service: Prof. F. Muntoni

The following types of samples can be sent to us at room temperature: fresh muscle biopsy, fresh skin biopsy, fresh chorionic villi sample (CVS), skin fibroblast cultures. The stained histological and immunohistochemical slides can be sent for review.

Fresh muscle biopsies must arrive in lab **within one hour** of being taken. If this is not possible see instruction for sending frozen sample. Skin, CVS and cell cultures can withstand room temperatures for a few hours after being taken.

Muscle biopsy:

Collect biopsy, proximately 5-10 mm in diameter, in sterile gauze dampened with a few drops of sterile saline solution or wrapped in cling film (**DO NOT immerse the biopsy in saline**) and place inside a screw cap sterile 30 ml universal container labelled with patient details. For respiratory chain enzymes analysis a larger sample, a piece of approximate 10 mm long x 10 mm wide, is preferable and must be frozen within 15 minutes of being taken.

Place the sterile 30 ml universal container inside a sealed leak-proof transparent plastic bag and place the bag inside an appropriate outer container with cushioning (e.g. padded envelope) labelled with UN3373.

Skin biopsy:

In an aseptic manner obtain a piece of skin deep enough to include the dermal layer. Deposit the biopsy in a sterile leak-proof container (e.g. small universal with screw cap labelled with patient details) containing approximately 4 ml of sterile standard culture medium (e.g. Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium without either antibiotics or serum). Place the sterile container inside a leak-proof sealed transparent plastic bag with absorbent material (e.g. cotton wool or absorbent paper). Either bring as soon as possible to the lab or send at room temperature by special overnight postal delivery or courier. If sending, place the bag inside an appropriate outer container with cushioning (e.g. padded envelope or small box with bubble wrap) labelled with UN3373.

Chorionic villi sample (CVS):

Immerse the C.V.S. cleaned of maternal blood (10-15 branches) in approximately 4 ml of sterile standard culture medium (as above) inside a leak-proof small universal with screw cap labelled with patient details. Place the sterile container inside a leak-proof sealed transparent plastic bag with absorbent material (e.g. cotton wool or absorbent paper). Either bring as soon as possible to the lab or send at room temperature by special overnight postal delivery or courier. If sending, place the bag inside an appropriate outer container with cushioning (e.g. padded envelope or small box with bubble wrap) labelled with P650 UN3373 and send at room temperature.

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***CVS may be sent at 4°C to arrive within 24 hrs after sampling.**

Cultured fibroblasts

Skin samples can be cultured and sent as cultured fibroblasts at room temperature.

Place a 50-100 ml sealed leak-proof flask filled to the top with medium supplemented with 20% serum. In addition to patient details, indicate passage number on the flask. Place the flask inside a leak-proof sealed transparent plastic bag with sufficient absorbent material to absorb all the culture medium and then in an appropriate outer container with cushioning (e.g. padded envelope or small box) labelled with UN3373. Send at room temperature.

Copies of this dispatch instruction and the referral form can be downloaded following the relevant links.

http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/gosh/clinicalservices/neuromuscular_services/CustomMenu_01