

5.0 STANDARDIZED PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTING OF ORGANS AND TISSUE TYPING MATERIALS

The following policies address standardized packaging of transplant organs and tissue typing materials to be transported. When the organ is procured and labeled, the Host OPO shall be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the donor's ABO and pertinent medical data on the container label and within the donor's documentation. Each OPO shall establish and implement an internal procedure for obtaining verification of donor ABO data and pertinent medical data by an individual other than the person initially performing the labeling and documentation requirements put forth in OPTN/UNOS Policy 5.2 and 5.3. The OPO shall maintain records documenting that such separate verification has taken place and make such documentation available for audit.

5.1 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE. Each OPO shall have a written policy established with (a) laboratory(s) approved by the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) or UNOS. This policy should be determined by the specimen requirements of the typing laboratory and the quality assurance criteria of ASHI or UNOS. The policy shall include specific descriptions of the type of specimen, and medium, in addition to the shipping requirements of same.

5.2 STANDARD LABELING SPECIFICATIONS. The Host OPO shall be responsible for ensuring that The outermost surface of the transport box containing organs and/or tissue typing specimen containers must have a secure label with the OPTN Donor I.D. Number, Donor ABO type, a description of the specific contents of the box, the sender's name and telephone number, and the Organ Center telephone number. The Host OPO is responsible for ensuring that each tissue or organ container is labeled appropriately.

5.2.1 The Host OPO is responsible for ensuring that the OPTN Donor I.D. number, donor ABO type, and a secure label identifying the specific contents (e.g., liver, right kidney, heart) are attached to the outer bag or rigid container housing the organ prior to transport.

5.2.2 Each separate specimen container of tissue typing material must have a secure label with the OPTN Donor I.D. Number, donor ABO type, date and time the sample was procured, and the type of tissue. The Host OPO is responsible for labeling the materials appropriately.

5.3 DOCUMENTATION. ABO results must be provided by the Host OPO. In all circumstances during which an organ is transported, copies or facsimiles of all reading sheets and reports pertaining to serologies, tissue typing, antibody screens, and regional crossmatch results must be provided after testing and included with any specimen for future testing. Documentation of donor blood product transfusions within the previous 72 hours, due to the fact that transfusions may impact the accuracy of testing, should be made available to the histocompatibility laboratories.

5.4 PACKAGING. In all circumstances during which an organ is transported, the Host OPO is responsible for packaging, labeling, and handling the organ in a manner which ensures arrival without compromise to the .organs Proper insulation and temperature controlled packaging including adequate ice or refrigeration shall be used to protect the organs during transport.

5.5 STANDARD ORGAN PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS. The standard package used by OPTN members must have the following properties:

5.5.1 A corrugated, wax impregnated outer container of 200 pound burst strength, or one of equal or greater strength and moisture resistance, must be used.

5.5.2 Inside the moisture resistant outer-container, 1-1/2" thick, expanded polystyrene insulated container or its R-factor equivalent must be used to maintain the temperature of the organ. A closed plastic liner must be placed between the outer container and the polystyrene insulated container to encase the ice.

- 5.5.3 A closed plastic liner must also be placed inside the polystyrene container to encase the ice. Inside the insulated container, the organ must be protected by a triple sterile barrier and one rigid container which, if sterile, may be considered one of the triple barriers.
- 5.5.3.1 The rigid container is not required for livers or lungs.
- 5.5.4 The tissue typing specimen containers must be in a leak proof plastic bag and must not be imbedded in the ice.
- 5.5.5 The donor paperwork must be in a watertight container. It may be placed in a location specifically designed for the paperwork or inside the outer container, outside of the insulated container.
- 5.5.6 Accompanying the organ and tissue typing material, a "red top" tube of blood, specifically for confirmation of ABO must be sent to the receiving OPO or transplant center. This tube must be labeled as described in Policy 5.2.2 and placed within the insulated container. The Host OPO is responsible for ensuring that the tube is appropriately labeled.
- 5.7 **TRANSPORTATION RESPONSIBILITY.** The Host OPO, as defined in Policy 2.1, is responsible for transportation of kidney(s) and tissue typing material to the primary destination designated by the recipient member, (e.g., laboratory, transplant hospital, or OPO). In charter aircraft situations, before the Organ Center will arrange for this mode of transportation, the Host OPO must agree to use a charter aircraft, and it must be determined who will pay for the charter.
- 5.7.1 **Transportation Costs Incurred by UNOS for Renal Organs.** Payment of transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member for a kidney that is unconditionally accepted by a member and subsequently forwarded to another member is the responsibility of the member that forwarded the kidney. Payment of transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member for a kidney that is conditionally accepted by a member and subsequently forwarded to another member is the responsibility of the Host OPO.
- 5.7.2 **Transportation Costs Incurred by UNOS for Tissue Typing Material.** Payment of transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member for tissue typing material sent to crossmatch backup recipients for a kidney that is conditionally accepted by a member is the responsibility of the member which requested backup for the organ.
- 5.7.3 **Transportation Costs Incurred by UNOS for Non-Renal Organs.** Payment of non-renal organ transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member is the responsibility of the member that accepts the organ. Payment of transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member for organs that have been accepted and transported, but cannot be utilized for transplantation, also is the responsibility of the member that accepted the organ. If an organ is first accepted by one member and subsequently forwarded to another member, payment of transportation costs incurred by UNOS on behalf of a member in forwarding the organ is the responsibility of the member that finally accepts the organ.