



Sending formalin fixed tissue through the post:

- Place tissue in 10% neutral buffered formalin (volume tissue to formalin 1:20)
- Tissue should preferably be fixed for 24 hours at a minimum.
- Remove most to all of the fixative. In a zip lock plastic bag, seal the tissue with moistened gauze(s). Double seal or triple seal the bag with the specimen, with another zip lock bag(s) to minimise leakage and then place into IATA compliant packaging.
- DO NOT LET SAMPLES DRY OUT during transport. Label bag with specimen details.
- Send information sheet with sample details separately to specimen and in another bag to avoid leakage onto writing.
- Instead of zip lock bags, wide neck containers, leak proof and screw top, can be used instead. Minimize formalin and send with moistened gauze. Minimize the use of tape before putting the lid on as it acts as a conduit for formalin to leak out. Label container with specimen details and double seal the containers with zip lock bags. Send information sheet with patient details separately.
- If excess liquid /formalin is sent through the mail, it must be labelled as 10% NB Formalin under legislation with an MSDS. NO concentrated formalin (>10%) should be sent via mail.