

Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Specimen Collection and Transport	
Subject	This procedure will define a process for the safe collection and transport of blood specimens from a patient known or suspected to have a special pathogen. Blood specimens will be transported to McLendon Labs Clinical Microbiology Laboratory for shipping out or the SPARC laboratory for processing. Phlebotomy should be limited to the minimum necessary for essential diagnostic evaluation and care.
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE for Special Pathogens • Phlebotomy tubes • Safety needle and vacutainer • EPA-registered disinfectant wipes • Patient labels • Biohazard lab bags • Gauze pad • Adhesive bandage • Tourniquet (single patient use) • IV kit • IV cannula – appropriate size for patient
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate PPE for special pathogens when collecting clinical specimens from suspected or confirmed cases. • All venous access techniques will be done using a safety-engineered device and sharp disposed of at the point of use. • DO NOT RECAP NEEDLES • Refer to the policies Peripheral Intravenous Device and Venipuncture and Arterial Blood Sampling and Line Care for processes for venipuncture and phlebotomy. • Follow guidelines provided in Infection Prevention Guidelines for Continuing Care and The Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections • Do NOT use the pneumatic tube station for any specimens from a suspected or confirmed special pathogen patient. • Do not send lab specimens to McLendon Clinical Labs for testing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diagnostic tests will be sent to the NC State Laboratory of Public Health ○ All other tests will be processed on-site in the UNC SPARC point of care (POC) testing space. • Ensure SPU laboratory staff is ready to receive specimens • Special Pathogen Testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult patients: collect two 4mL tubes of whole blood in a plastic tube preserved with EDTA ○ Pediatric patients: collect a minimum of 1 mL whole blood in pediatric-sized collection tube preserved with EDTA ○ NC State Epidemiologist on-call will determine where Ebola virus, or other special pathogen testing will occur ○ If a specimen result is negative and the patient's symptoms have been present for less than 3 days, a second sample should be collected 72 hours after symptom onset and in consultation with the state public health epidemiologist.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Chemistries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult patients: collect one 4mL tube of whole blood in a Lithium Heparin tube (green top) ○ Pediatric patients: collect a minimum of 1 mL whole blood in a pediatric-sized Lithium Heparin tube (green top) ○ Package tube according to Special Pathogen Laboratory Transport SOP (see below) ○ Transport to SPARC POC Lab • Clinical Hematology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult patients: collect one 4mL tubes of whole blood in a plastic tube preserved with EDTA (purple top) ○ Pediatric patients: collect a minimum of 1 mL whole blood in a plastic tube preserved with EDTA (purple top) ○ Package tube according to Special Pathogen Laboratory Transport SOP (see below) ○ Transport to UNC SPARC POC Lab <p>Transport of Specimens from a Special Pathogen Patient Outside the Patient Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the specimen is obtained and labeled, the staff inside the room will wipe the tubes containing blood with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe. Discard the wipe in the red bag trash. • The doffing assistant outside the patient room will hold open the biohazard lab bag, with an absorbent pad inside. • The bag will be sealed immediately, and external surfaces wiped down with an EPA-registered disinfectant. • Place the biohazard lab bag into a second bag, which will be sealed and disinfected. • A staff member will be outside the patient door with a clean, rigid, leak-proof container. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A chux, or other absorbent material, will be placed at the bottom of the container. • Place the specimen in a rigid leak-proof container labeled as biohazard and disinfected prior to transport. • The specimen will be taken to the SPU lab for processing OR • The specimen will be escorted to McLendon Clinical Microbiology lab after consultation with the Microbiology Director for packaging and transport for send out for special pathogen testing. This packaging must be performed by a technologist trained to package Category A shipping. (See McLendon Clinical Laboratories Packaging and Shipping of Biological Specimens External to the Medical Center policy)
References	Guidance for Collection, Transport and Submission of Specimens for Ebolavirus Testing: https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/laboratory-personnel/specimens.html
Related Policies	Infection Prevention Guidelines for Continuing Care The Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections McLendon Clinical Laboratories Packaging and Shipping of Biological Specimens External to the Medical Center

UNC SPARC
Special Pathogen Unit (SPU)
Standard Operation Procedure

Responsible	UNC SPARC Project Manager UNC SPARC Medical Director McLendon Laboratory (for review)