

**TRANSFER OF CRYOPRESERVED SPECIMENS TO
ARIZONA REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE SPECIALISTS**
1701 East Thomas Road – Building 1; Suite 101 Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 343-2767- fax: (602) 343-2766 - email: kpomeroy@arizonarms.com

Patient Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____
We _____ (patient's name) request that our cryopreserved specimens be released from _____ to the agent for **Arizona Reproductive Medicine Specialists**.

ARMS recommends that all valuable cryopreserved specimens be hand delivered by the client to the receiving laboratory in order to minimize the possibility that the specimens are handled improperly by a shipping agent. ARMS also recommends that a new and tested shipper be used for the shipping of all valuable specimens.

We understand that we (client) are responsible and liable for all negative outcomes in processing for shipping and shipping. We agree to hold ARMS blameless for any damage or accidents to frozen tissues shipped. This includes loss or destruction of the tissue due to mishandling, thawing of tissue, and failure or loss of the tank or tissues. We also understand that there are inherent risks in shipping these specimens (such as loss of and/or thawing of specimens) and we assume all of these risks and release Arizona Reproductive Medicine Specialists of any liability. We (client) assume the risks of damage, accidental thawing, and decreased viability of all shipped specimens. We further realize that specimens frozen at one facility may have poorer thaw survival when thawed at another facility due to differences in protocols, equipment and personnel.

If a dry shipper is used we assume the responsibility for the return of that dry shipper and agree to pay the cost of a replacement dry shipper at market value should that shipper be lost, damaged or not returned after 10 days. We also understand that dry shippers may deteriorate or fail and we assume these risks and hold ARMS blameless. We understand that in order to reduce the costs of shipping of frozen specimens dry liquid nitrogen shippers are not tested for any function and we (client) assume risks inherent to this.

We have been advised that to reduce possible damage to frozen tissue we should purchase a new and recently inspected and tested shipper. We also understand that ARMS recommends that the client insure these specimens prior to shipping for the value (replacement and any other costs) that these specimens have for the client. The client assumes all risks inherent or otherwise in the transfer and shipping of these specimens. We also understand that the amount of time these specimens will stay frozen can not be determined accurately as it is a function of the handling of the container. Containers shipped on their side or upside down may have 1/10th of the standard holding time. ARMS does not ship frozen specimens, but will release these specimens to clients or agents of clients for shipping. ARMS will fill the nitrogen shippers if instructed to by the client, but ARMS does not warrant the quality of the liquid nitrogen or the filling process. The client holds ARMS blameless from any untoward affect due to the quality of the liquid nitrogen or shipper and holds ARMS blameless for the loss of the tissue due either to misplacement or damage during the entire shipping process.

If these specimens are from any donor tissue (sperm or embryos) this must be made clear to ARMS prior to shipping to ensure proper screening of the tissue prior to receipt as per FDA regulations. If vials larger than 1.2 ml or any straws are being transferred, an additional yearly fee of \$150 shall be charged.

From: _____

Address to be shipped to: 1701 East Thomas Road; Bldg 1; Suite 101
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Phone Number and Name of Receiver: Kimball O. Pomeroy 602-343-2764

Phone Number and Name of Sender: _____

Number of vials to be shipped: _____ Contents of vials: _____

Date Tissue Extracted _____

How to Ship? Patient Will Hand Deliver
 Current Laboratory Will Ship

Details of shipping (date, carrier, etc.):

By: Client (Print) _____

Signature (Client) _____

Client's Spouse _____

Spouse Signature _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____

*This document must **be signed by both parties**. **Storage fees** for current year and receipt of a **Storage Agreement** are required prior to acceptance of specimens. We must receive the form completed and a donor eligibility determination from your clinic with a summary of the screens and results. No specimens can be shipped to ARMS or will be received by ARMS without prior approval. Tanks shipped to ARMS without prior approval will be sent back at the client's expense.*

Shipping of Frozen Specimens

ARMS has found it necessary to remove its self from the liability of shipping embryos and sperm. There are inherent risks in shipping these items due to the inability to control how the items are handled once they leave the laboratory. In particular, some dry shippers may be tossed into delivery trucks on their sides or upside down. This can cause the tanks, which usually last about 4 to 5 days, to have one tenth of the standard holding time. For this reason, ARMS recommends that these items be hand delivered by the patient. For some patients, this may not be feasible. In that case, the patient must realize that there are some risks that they will have to trade off for convenience. If the lost of these specimens involved substantial costs, or the value of these specimens is considered high due to their nature, then ARMS recommends that patients shipping tissue to other clinics take out insurance to cover all costs or damages should these specimens not arrive at their destination in perfect shape.

Having said all of this, probably well over 99% of all cryopreserved shipments arrive in good shape when shipped in dry shippers but because of recently perceived liability, ARMS can no longer provide this service. Were ARMS to continue to provide this service at cost (as we have been), we would have to institute new changes to institute tank inspections and contracting personal couriers that would drive the costs of shipment from a hundred dollars into the thousands of dollars per shipment. We feel this is unreasonable and so have passed on the responsibility and liability of shipping to our patients. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

- 1) Sign the above release form and bring to ARMS.
- 2) ARMS will contact the sending clinic to arrange shipment date for the specimens.
- 3) The sending lab should provide the tank or one can be provided by ReproTech.
- 4) Shipping should not occur on during holidays or Thursday - Sunday.
- 5) The shipping lab should call ARMS when the tank is available for shipment.
- 6) There is no fee for transferring of tissues.
- 7) **All tissues being shipped to ARMS must have a Summary of Records (if donor eggs or donor sperm were used), FDA Labels, a storage agreement and the ARMS Communicable Disease Testing Form. In addition, storage fees must be paid.**

ARMS Protocol for Shipping of Cryopreserved Sperm or Embryos

Frozen embryos, sperm and other tissue have traditionally been shipped between laboratories using shipping agents such as Federal Express and UPS. Although these systems have worked quite well in the past, the valuable nature of these tissues warrants a safer and more controlled method for shipping. Occasionally, specimens have been shipped to distant laboratories only to arrive damaged or thawed. Usually one of two items have occurred: 1) The tank has arrived without any liquid nitrogen, and due to the increased temperature, the tissues have thawed and are not useable or 2) the individual container that holds the tissue (usually a plastic vial or straw) has been damaged during shipping making it almost impossible to retrieve the tissue without damage or contamination.

The most common culprits of a thawed specimen are:

- 1) Damaged tank during transport, breaking the vacuum and impairing the thermal properties of the tank.
- 2) Improper shipping such that the tank is shipped upside down or lying down. This can result in a tank having 1/10th of its normal holding time.
- 3) The tank is not filled properly with liquid nitrogen or the time from filling to receipt exceeds the tank's holding time.

Proper shipping of cryopreserved tissue is both time-consuming and costly. These costs can run into the thousands of dollars, especially if hand delivery via air is necessary. Because these specimens are valuable, ARMS recommends that all shipments are insured so as to cover any incurred expenses from the lost of the tissue should that occur. It is the responsibility of each patient to locate an insurer and to properly insure each shipment to their satisfaction.

Because ARMS has no control over tissue once they are released from our laboratory, ARMS has decided that we cannot afford to

offer a shipping service to patients. In order to ship items to ARMS, the patient must assume all responsibility and liability for the proper shipment of their tissue. ARMS will no longer be able to supply shipping containers, as the cost to provide these containers and the cost of liability would be cost prohibitive. Patients must procure a dry liquid nitrogen shipper by either purchasing a new one that is inspected and tested, rent one for their use (currently we know of no one in the Phoenix area providing this service) or obtain one from the shipping laboratory (most common). Even so, it will be the patient's responsibility to see that these tissues are properly conveyed to their destination. ARMS will try to facilitate the shipping of these tissues as much as possible, but it will be the patient's responsibility to see that they are done as safely and controlled as possible.

ReproTech, provides long-term storage of cryopreserved specimens, and as such, will also act to redistribute tissues between laboratories. The cost for this service is \$190 for shipping to their laboratory where they will verify the specimen and then \$190 to ship the specimens to the receiving laboratory. Another \$106 charge will be necessary for a storage fee, bringing the total to \$486. It will also be necessary to fill out a registration form, transfer to form, transfer from form and a cryostorage form. These prices are subject to change by ReproTech. Details can be found by calling ReproTech at 1-888-831-2765.

The following steps must be taken before ARMS can receive any tissue:

- 1) Patient must sign a storage agreement form which we must receive before tissues can be released.
- 2) Patients must pre-pay storage fees.
- 3) It may take up to 4 weeks to ship tissue safely. This process should not be hurried.
- 4) Shipments should occur only on Monday through Wednesday. Holidays are to be avoided.

Recommended Secure Method:

- 1) Patient should purchase a new dry liquid nitrogen tank (also called vapor shippers www.chartbiomed.com) and have it inspected and tested.
- 2) The shipping laboratory will place the specimens into the tank and the patient can then deliver it to the receiving laboratory.

Alternatively, if the patient desires, we will contact the laboratory shipping the specimens to arrange to use one of their shippers.

Shipping From a Distant Laboratory to ARMS

A

- 1) The shipping laboratory should send us the tissue in their pre-tested and inspected shipper with a return label.
- 2) We will remove the tissue, store it in our tank and return the shipper to the sending laboratory.

B

- 1) Patient should contact ReproTech for shipping.
- 2) ReproTech will ship the tank to the sending laboratory and the laboratory will place the patient's tissues in the tank and ship it to ReproTech.
- 3) ReproTech will inspect the tissue and send it to ARMS after inspection.