Specialist Microbiology Network: Commissioned Public Health Laboratory Newcastle upon Tyne

Appendix 3: Postal packaging for faecal samples

A. Components for submission of samples



B. Simple sample in transport container



C. Multiple samples in one transport container



Instructions to EHO's and patients for sending enteric specimens

1. Place sample inside the sterile universal faeces container (blue or brown top), making sure you do not overfill the container. Please ensure that you fill in the label on the sample container clearly.

- 2. Place the container inside the plastic transport vial with the pad of absorbent material (SUPASORB) and ensure that the lids on both the faeces container and transport vial are securely closed.
- 3. Place the transport the vial inside the cardboard transport box. Please complete the request form clearly and as fully as possible.
- 4. Multiple samples can be submitted in the same transport container. Ensure that there is sufficient absorbent material for the content. Each sample must be in a separate bag to prevent contamination should a leak occur. Place request forms around to outside of the plastic transport container within the cardboard transport box.
- 5. Place the transport box, together with the completed request form, into the addressed opaque plastic envelope (UN3373), attach stamps and post. Please ensure that you put the address of the referring EHO on the rear of the envelope.

Additional specimen types that may be submitted to laboratory

Swabs can be submitted to the laboratory for testing. Please note that there are different types for Viral and Bacteriology (MC and S) investigations

These samples must be transported to the laboratory using the mechanism given for faecal samples (Appendix 3).



Viral swab or Eswab

Snap off into red capped tube containing viral transport medium



Eswab for MC and S

Snap off swab into either tube containing liquid amies (Eswab)