Safe Handling and Effective Specimen Transport Programme in New Territories West Cluster (NTWC)

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Introduction
Several incidents happened related to specimen transportation in NTWC, such as specimens found lost during the transportation from wards to laboratory with the following reasons:
• No record of specimens requiring urgent delivery
• No designated specimens collection point
• Blood specimens were not put in an upright position
• Different specimens were put in the same plastic bag in some wards

Objectives
• To minimize the risk of specimen loss during transportation from clinical wards to laboratory by reviewing and streamlining the workflow
Methodology: Aligned Workflow

**Ward Staff**
- request the special/urgent specimens’ collection through Automatic Dispatch System (ADS)
- check their status in Clinical Management System (CMS)

**SSU Staff**
- collect the used racks from PI and disinfect the contaminated racks
- replenish the specimen racks in wards daily

**SSU Staff**
- collect and deliver the specimens to PI
- record the urgent specimens in ADS

**PI Staff**
- input the data in Generic Clinical Request System (GCRS)
- place the used specimen racks in a designated trolley
Result & Outcome

• The risk of specimen loss during the transportation from wards to laboratory was minimized by standardization of workflow
• Specimens could be kept in the upright position which followed the laboratory standard
• There were **NO incidents** related to loss of specimen after the implementation of the programme
• Majority of staff were satisfied with this programme
Thank you!