



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Modernising the Business Support Services - Enhancement on Specimen Transportation**

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#### **Keywords:**

Barcode

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#### **Introduction**

In view of some occasions of misplacement and miscounting before, the project aims at enhancing accuracy and efficiency of specimen transportation by adopting self-adhesive non-resealable plastic bags and barcode scanner. The use of electronic record could easily identify discrepancy between the quantity sent out from wards/units and the quantity received by the laboratory.

#### **Objectives**

To align with the HA guidelines on specimen transportation in terms of safety and accuracy, to minimize the risk of cross-contamination and to enhance efficiency and traceability

#### **Methodology**

A number of equipment was adopted for collecting and transporting specimen. Self-adhesive non-resealable plastic bag acted as a secondary container to avoid leakage. The non-resealable feature of the plastic bag could also refrain it from re-sealing and show signs of tampering once it was intentionally opened. Specimen rack would be used for holding the specimen tubes in an upright position inside the plastic bag. The barcode scanner was used for logging the information of the origin and respective number of specimen bags collected and dispatched. When collecting specimen from wards/units and dispatching specimen to the laboratory, staff would scan the location QR-code at the designated location and a serial number barcode label on each specimen bag. Quantity of specimen bags collected from wards/units and that delivered to the laboratory would be cross-checked for discrepancy right after each trip from the electronic registry, which replaced the handwritten record form. The whole transportation process was facilitated and secured by a delivery trolley with lock. In implementing this project, we have provided briefing sessions to users as well as hands-on trainings to the frontline staff.

#### **Result**

Evaluation survey was conducted in November 2015 and positive feedback has been received. The barcode technology revealed that there was 26% of time saved in the process of specimen transportation. The objectives of the project have been

accomplished by ensuring safe collection and transportation of specimen, preventing loss of specimen, enabling instant checking process, generating more accurate and systematic record, attaining higher efficiency and enhancing traceability.