



CAPRISA

CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA



CAPRISA IS A UNAIDS
COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH

MTN Regional Meeting 29 October 2013

Shipments of MTN samples

- **So throughout the last two days we have heard how important the study samples are to the endpoints of the study and also for future testing to understand why a product may have worked and even more importantly why it may not have worked**

- **Just a quick example**
- **In VOICE, if we at the laboratory had not stored samples, stored, labelled and shipped them properly we would not know today that adherence was the problem in VOICE.**
- **So I can not stress how important these samples are.**

- **So the pressure is on all the laboratories to store and ship according to the study protocol.**

- **So I am not here today to tell you how to ship your samples as all the sites involved in ASPIRE, MTN 015, and MTN 016 are not naïve to clinical trials or use of LDMS for storage and shipping.**
- **Rather, I would like to stress some issues that may crop up during shipment and could hinder the smooth shipment or receipt of these precious samples.**

- **When you get the shipment request from the MTN team, do not panic when you see the length of the list or the multiple labs that you need to send the shipments to.**
- **Rather work systematically and even with one batch at a time. I am sure that each of us has a system on what we do first, but ensure that whatever you are doing is per the SOP of your institution and is what is done by all.**

- **When you have created your shipping batches ensure that what is on your LDMS shipping manifest is exactly what is also reflected in your box, including the positioning of each vial.**
- **Also ensure that each aliquot is the exact one that has been requested by checking the Global identification number of the samples being requested and what is in the box.**

- **Sometimes we have an incident where a sample with a global identification number which has been shipped on a previous shipment is being requested again.**
- **This can occur as the LDMS data may not have been updated.**
- **Communicate this immediately to all listed on the shipping request email string so if one person is away the others can help with deleting this sample from your list or replace it with another sample.**

- **Communicate the shipment date to all on the email so that they can respond immediately if any shipping delays could be anticipated or if the shipment would be arriving on a public holiday or weekend, which would mean that the shipment may be sitting somewhere with temperature deviations that could lead to sample integrity being brought into question.**

- **Shipment delays are sometimes out of our control, so use a reputable courier company who are logging the temperature of your precious shipment and will replenish dry ice if this is required.**
- **Ensure that you are registered on their website so that you can track the shipment.**

- **Prior to the samples leaving your lab ensure the following:**
- **Check each sample to ensure that the cap of each sample is screwed on tight.**
- **Double check your global id with the shipping request list.**
- **I can not stress the importance of Qcing and re Qcing your boxes.**
- **Ensure that your shipment boxes are packed properly, securely and sealed with additional mechanisms so that if the box tips over you do not have samples falling out of the box.**

- **If you are shipping slides, fill the gaps in the box with tissue paper, seal the box well with rubber band and secure with tape so that even if this box is handled badly there is no possibility that slides may be damaged. Shake the box once packed, you should not hear any rattle.**
- **Prior to shipping slides ensure that you are not shipping any slides from participants that may have had failed screenings and as such have not been enrolled into the study.**
- **Again QC, QC, QC.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **SHANNIE KAMAL**
- **CAPRISA LAB TEAM**
- **NETWORK LAB**

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS