

## Special Instructions for StemCure Tissue Sample Kit Users:

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### **About The Tissue Sample Kit:**

The StemCure Tissue Sample Kit and all its contents have been designed to make the biopsy procedure safe and efficient. We have also provided you with the necessary packaging for properly transport the harvested skin samples at a cool temperature between +5 to +12 degrees Celsius.

**NOTE:** Each member of the family who participates in our Tissue Banking Program will be supplied with his/her own Tissue Sample Kit, which is marked by full name and identification number. This identification will be found on the shipping box and the medical vials with media. It is extremely necessary to observe the special handling instructions for properly participating in the StemCure Tissue Banking Program and to not mix tissue samples between family members.

**IMPORTANT:** In order to participate in our Tissue Banking Program, it is important to fully read and complete the following instructions properly.

**Step 1** Inspect and get acquainted with all contents included in the StemCure Tissue Sample Kit. If you received the StemCure package through a commercial shipper then the inner carton should contain the following:

- a. Biopsy Set
- b. Incision / Drainage pack
- c. Envelope with Agreement Forms and FedEx prepaid return airway bill
- d. Cooler Box

**ATTENTION: Do not open the Biopsy and Suturing Sets.** They are sealed and sterilized and must be used only by your doctor or medical provider for biopsy procedures.

**Step 2** In the Cooler Box you will find:

- a. Two Ice Bricks;
- b. Styrofoam container with two vials.

**NOTE:** The contents of the Cooler Box have been carefully packaged to prevent damage. Please remember the order in which the items were removed so that they may be returned to their original positions when you are ready to ship.

**ATTENTION: Do not open the vials** that contain the sterile shipping medium. This is for your doctor's use only.

**IMPORTANT:** The "Ice Bricks" provided in the container should be placed in your refrigerator's freezer for a minimum of 16 hours before the biopsy procedure is planned. The brick must be placed flat inside your freezer and not touching anything else or having anything placed upon it.



**Step 3** Carefully read, complete and sign all Agreement Forms.

**NOTE:** Paragraph 6 of the StemCure Participation Agreement, which is called “Healthcare Provider’s Authorization for Biopsy Performance and Release from Liability”, must be completed with your doctor.

**Step 4** Contact your doctor:

**NOTE:** As stated in our Agreement Form, StemCure does not provide doctors for this particular activity. It is the client’s responsibility to use either his/her own family physician or choose an independent medical facility to perform the Skin Biopsy Procedure.

**IMPORTANT:** Prerequisites for Biopsy Procedure: In accordance with StemCure Policy, all Tissue Banking samples require testing for major diseases. Prior to the performance of the Skin Biopsy Procedure, all participants must have a blood test to rule out the presence of:

1. Antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1)
2. Antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 2 (HIV-2)
3. Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (HCV)
4. Antibodies to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
5. Antibodies to Syphilis

A copy of this test result must be attached to the tissue samples when the specimens will be shipped to StemCure. **If one of the diseases will be detected, you should contact StemCure for further instructions.**

**About The Skin Biopsy Procedure:**

The skin biopsy is a simple and routine procedure often performed in a doctor’s office. This procedure usually takes about 15-30 minutes.

**IMPORTANT:** The Biopsy Procedure must be performed between Monday and Thursday because the tissue samples must reach our labs no later than Friday via overnight delivery.

**How to Prepare:**

You may be asked to change into a gown or remove an article of clothing so that the underarm area of skin can be more easily seen and accessed. Inform your doctor if you have any allergies to medication; especially if you have had any reactions to local anesthetics, such as Lidocaine, Novocain or to Iodine cleaning solutions such as Butadiene. Tell your doctor what medications you are presently taking and if you have had bleeding problems and/or if you are pregnant.

**During the Skin Biopsy:**

You will need to be still, moving as little as possible. Your doctor will give you a numbing medicine, so you will feel very little pain. There is a brief prick and sting as the anesthetic is injected. Afterwards, the area may be tender.

In a Punch Biopsy your doctor will carefully remove a small cylinder of skin and then put a bandage over your biopsy site. In some cases, the area where the skin sample was taken may need to be closed with stitches.

The small tissue biopsy taken by your doctor will be placed in the pre-labeled vial containing a specialized tissue shipping medium.

The physician should seal the vial and pack it in the Cooler Shipping Kit with the Ice Bricks. Attach the return airway label to the box and call FedEx for pickup. To ensure that the tissue sample remains cool, the Box must be returned to StemCure by overnight.

**After the Skin Biopsy:**

If you have stitches, you need to keep the area clean and dry. You may be advised to wash the wound, apply antibacterial ointment, and change the bandage daily. Follow your doctor's instructions regarding when and how to wash the wound. Stitches on the under-arm are usually removed in 10-14 days whereas adhesive strips are left in place for 10-21 days.

Should you have pain at the biopsy site, talk with your doctor about pain relief medication. In most cases, discomfort is minimal and requires nothing more than an over-the-counter medication.

**IMPORTANT:** If you're prone to excessive bleeding or experiencing signs of pain, contact an emergency room.

**Medical Provider Reimbursement:**

After receiving and crediting their processing fee, StemCure will reimburse the doctor up to \$100.00 for professional services rendered in the successful collection of the tissue sample.

When a Tissue Biopsy Kit is received at StemCure we will start processing your biopsy samples. Once we have successfully performed the procedures – cryopreservation and test for viability, you will be notified by mail/email.

If you have any questions you can contact us at [stemcure@gmail.com](mailto:stemcure@gmail.com), or call 1-718-369-0282.