**APPROVAL OF SHIPMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES AT KEMRI**

KEMRI Scientific and Ethics Review Unit (SERU) is the Unit mandated by KEMRI to process and approve applications for shipment of Biological samples or specimens. Shipment of samples is limited to analyses that cannot be carried out in KEMRI and other institutions in Kenya. Samples and specimens that are commonly shipped include but not limited to; blood samples, saliva, breast milk samples, mosquito parts samples, biological cultures, tissue and tissue samples, hair samples, human stool, environmental samples used in human health research; among other samples.

SERU also provides advisory on importation of samples for research purposes in SERU approved protocols.

SERU handles only shipment applications for KEMRI-based studies. The authority to ship biological samples or specimens from Non-KEMRI affiliated studies (NON-SSC/NON-SERU category) should be obtained from the Head of the Department of Standards and Regulatory Services (DSRS), Ministry of Health, Afya House, Cathedral Road.

Investigators who intend to ship samples should ensure that their studies are approved by SERU and there is a provision of shipment of samples in the approved protocol. For samples from humans, the study participants must have consented to the shipment of their samples to overseas institutions for analysis.

Additionally the application should be accompanied by cover letter detailing the request , SERU Form for exportation of samples, Consent Documents, current SERU initial of continuing approval letter and a part of the protocol that indicates the need for shipment of samples (unless requested for a whole protocol).

Check for SERU Form for Exportation/Import of samples is on the SERU webpage.