To whom it may concern:

Please note that these are patient specimens collected for research or diagnostic purpose and are exempt from the regulations as stated in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49; 173.134).

“A patient specimen means human or animal material collected directly from humans or animals and transported for research, diagnosis, investigational activities, or disease treatment or prevention. Patient specimens include excreta, secreta, blood and its components, tissue and tissue swabs, body parts, and specimens in transport media (e.g. transswabs, culture media, and blood culture bottles).”

Sincerely,

Ericka E. Pearce, MS, CBSP  
Senior Associate Biosafety Officer  
Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
University of Virginia