



## User Manual

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## Chapter 1

### 1.1 What is epiSampler?

epiSampler is a java-based desktop application and networked solution for data collection and biological sample tracking in low internet-accessibility settings. epiSampler generates 2D barcoded cryogenic labels and provides a rich graphical user interface for recording specimen data, managing storage and tracking samples across multiple research sites. epiSampler also allows researchers to build and deploy custom survey forms employing field-level validation rules to ensure data accuracy and integrity. Data can be easily curated, queried and exported for use with other popular analytics and database software.

### 1.2 Understanding the Structure of Study Data.

epiSampler imposes organizational structure on data in order to programmatically identify relationships between data points at the specimen, collection and subject levels. The underlying database structure is made up of data tables linked by shared identifiers. This type of structure is known as a relational database.

Subject ID	D.O.B.	Ethnicity	Gender
SUB-0011	12/9/83	White	Male
SUB-0012	8/21/90	Black	Female
SUB-0013	3/3/78	Asian	Female
SUB-0014	1/5/80	White	Male

Collection ID	Subject ID	Collection Date	Height	Weight (lbs)	Temperature (F)
COL-09UIJ	SUB-0012	5/4/12	6'2"	168	98.2
COL-EOU89	SUB-0014	5/6/12	5'8"	140	98.4
COL-PL8UI	SUB-0012	5/5/12	5'9"	134	97.9
COL-829FG	SUB-0011	5/4/12	5'2"	121	100.1

Specimen ID	Collection ID	CryoBox	Well	Volume (ul)	Material
SM-93892	COL-829FG	BC-1	1	580	Buffy Coat
SM-FHUE8	COL-829FG	BC-1	2	560	Buffy Coat
SM-092PL	COL-829FG	PLM-1	1	1000	Plasma
SM-IKL78	COL-829FG	PLM-1	2	1080	Plasma
SM-09PLD	COL-829FG	URN-1	1	2000	Urine
SM-18IHJ	COL-829FG	URN-1	2	1800	Urine

Figure 1 - Relational Database Tables

### 1.3 Data Tables

epiSampler's underlying tables hold an array of data generated by epiSampler as well as data manually entered by end-users. Each and every data table must contain at least one of the following identifier types: a Subject ID, a Collection ID or a Specimen ID, though most contain at least two of the above.

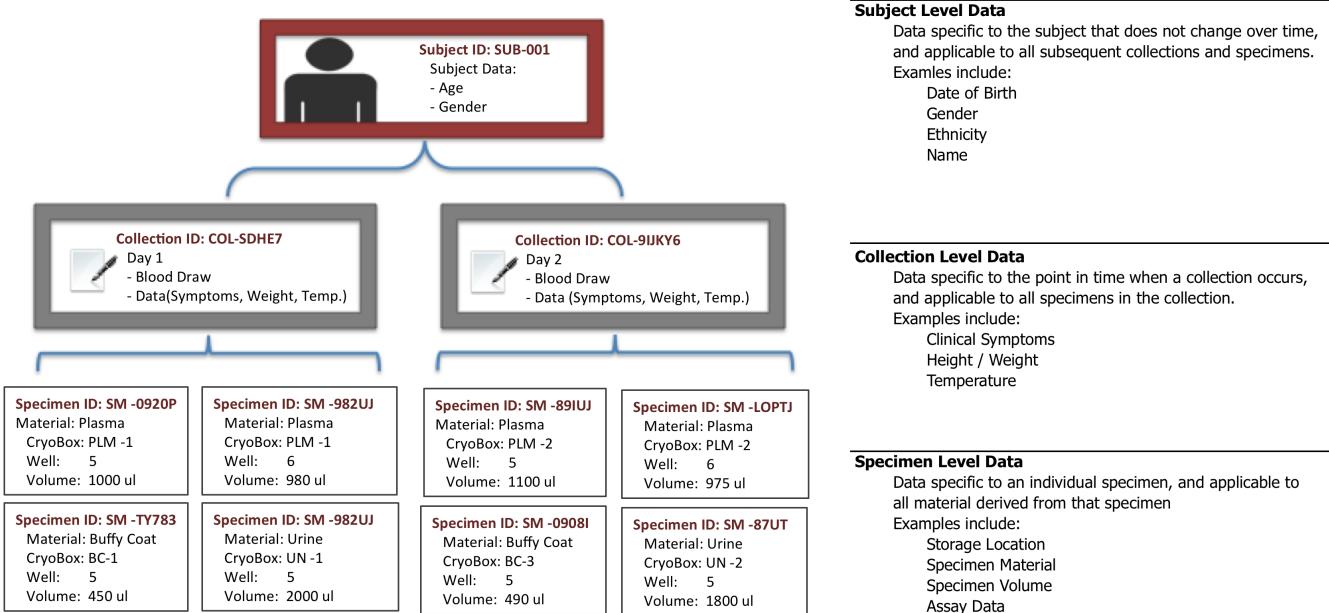


Figure 2 - epiSampler Data Tree

**Specimen ID:** Specimen IDs are unique IDs given to every biological specimen. epiSampler generates specimen IDs when labels are printed ensuring that each is unique. epiSampler-assigned Specimen IDs all begin with the letters SM.

**Collection ID:** All specimens are part of a collection kit. A ‘collection’ refers to the point in time at which a sample or data is obtained. A Collection ID links all of the specimens and data that result from a single collection. For example, a study may require that blood is drawn from a subject, and separated into serum and red blood cells.

While the vials containing the serum, red blood cells and whole blood would each have been given a unique Specimen ID, since they all originated from the same collection, they would all share the same Collection ID. In this way the serum and red blood cells can be linked to each other through the Collection ID. epiSampler-assigned Collection IDs all begin with COL.

**Subject ID:** The Subject ID refers to any given individual, animal or inanimate subject being studied. Subject IDs are not automatically linked to Collection IDs but instead the relationship is established via user-created data forms, and their underlying data tables. The format of Subject IDs is often stipulated by the study protocol, and a subject can be associated with any number of collections. For example, a study looking at blood chemistries over the course of a disease may require a new collection every day. Therefore, any subject in that study would be associated with multiple collections.

The three data levels create a tree-like structure (Figure 2) through which all specimens, specimen level data, collection level data and subject data are linked. The relationship makes it possible for highly complex data queries to be created on the fly using nothing more than a drag-and-drop interface.

## 1.4 Biological Specimen Data

### Collection Kits

epiSampler allows a researcher to create a template for generating sample collection kits. Researchers and study staff can print any number of sample collection kits in which uniquely generated Specimen IDs linked by unique Collection IDs, all of which are printed together as a set of barcoded labels designed for use on cryogenic storage vials, paper data forms and other sample material.

Figure 3 shows a typical collection kit. It contains one label for Whole Blood, which, as per protocol, is separated into 2 vials of Plasma, one of Buffy Coat and one vial of Red Blood Cells. There is also data collection and enrollment consent form.

Each label contains a unique Specimen ID and barcode, but they are all part of the same collection and therefore share the same Collection ID. epiSampler has stored the relationship between all elements of this sample kit. But how will these specimens be linked to other important data, including specimen storage information, clinical parameters collected during the sampling, and certain demographic information collected from the Subject?

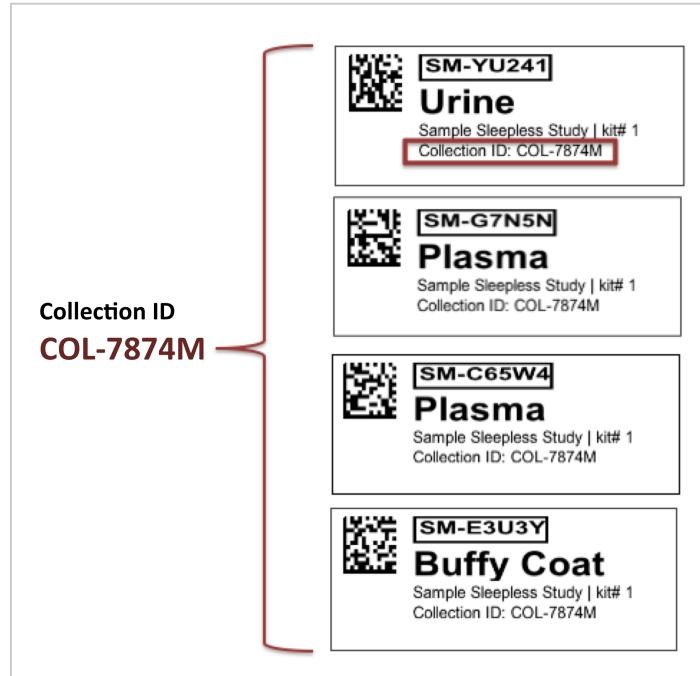


Figure 3 – Sample Collection Kit

## 1.5 Survey Data

epiSampler automatically tracks specimen storage information, but a researcher may also choose to run specific tests or assays on a specimen, and epiSampler is flexible enough to capture additional data at any of the three levels of data: Subject, Collection or Specimen. This is achieved by the use of Survey Forms and the underlying data tables they represent.

### To Consider: Subject vs. Collection Data

It is important to collect the data at the appropriate level within the data structure. Doing so helps you avoid redundancy and ensures your data set is as robust as possible. Data should be collected at the level to which it most directly applies.

For example, a subject's date of birth might be considered a variable of interest every time you draw his blood, but it would be redundant to collect this each time. This is not collection-level data, but instead belongs at the subject level. Similarly, while the subject's temperature certainly only belongs to that subject, it is likely to be different every time. Associating temperature at the subject level would mean missing this data point at every subsequent collection.

Data that remains the same and true of a subject should be assigned to the subject level, while data that is only certain to be true at the point of collection is collection level data. Data that is only certain to be true of any one specimen, like assay results, or volume, is specimen level data. The first column, known as the table index, of a data table indicates what level of data that table contains.

### 1.5.1 Recording Collection-level data:

The simple form in figure 4 could be used to collect clinical parameters during sample collection. The survey form is a graphical user interface (GUI) for the underlying data table. The first field asks the

**Sleepless Collection Form**

Scan Form Barcode: SM-01100      Collection ID: COL-82410

1) Weight (lbs) 156

2) Height (in) 78

3) HIV Status Negative

**SUBMIT FORM**

Collection ID Weight (lbs) Height (in) HIV Status

COL-09302	134	67	Negative
COL-390HJ	140	72	Negative
COL-82410	156	78	Unknown
COL-F6103	160	74	Negative

Specimen ID Collection ID CryoBox Well Volume (ul) Material Specimen ID

SM-93892	COL-F6103	BC-1	1	580	Buffy Coat	SM-93892
SM-FHUE8	COL-F6103	BC-1	2	560	Buffy Coat	SM-FHUE8
SM-092PL	COL-F6103	PLM-1	1	1000	Plasma	SM-092PL
SM-IKL78	COL-F6103	PLM-1	2	1080	Plasma	SM-IKL78
SM-09PLD	COL-F6103	URN-1	1	2000	Urine	SM-09PLD
SM-18IHJ	COL-F6103	URN-1	2	1800	Urine	SM-18IHJ

**Figure 4 - Collection Data Form**

user to scan the form barcode. epiSampler automatically records the collection ID associated with the scanned barcode. Because the table's index column is Collection ID the data in the table can be tied to all specimens that share the same Collection ID. But how is this data tied to study subjects?

**Figure 5 – Subject Data Collection Form**

**Sleepless Study Form**

1) Subject ID SUB-0011

2) Collection ID COL-F6103

3) Date of Birth 08/04/2008

Gender  
 Male  Female

↓

Subject ID	Collection ID	Date of Birth	Gender
SUB-0001	COL-89UJ1	12/9/83	Male
SUB-0009	COL-092PL	4/5/76	Female
SUB-0010	COL-08UIJ	1/6/80	Male
<b>SUB-0011</b>	<b>COL-F6103</b>	3/23/78	Male

Collection ID	Weight (lbs)	Height (in)	HIV Status
COL-09302	134	67	Negative
COL-390HJ	140	72	Negative
COL-82410	156	78	Unknown
<b>COL-F6103</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>Negative</b>

Specimen ID	Collection ID	CryoBox	Well	Volume (ul)	Material	Specimen
SM-93892	COL-F6103	BC-1	1	580	Buffy Coat	SM-93892
SM-FHUE8	COL-F6103	BC-1	2	560	Buffy Coat	SM-FHUE8
SM-092PL	COL-F6103	PLM-1	1	1000	Plasma	SM-092PL
SM-IKL78	COL-F6103	PLM-1	2	1080	Plasma	SM-IKL78
SM-09PLD	COL-F6103	URN-1	1	2000	Urine	SM-09PLD
SM-18IHJ	COL-F6103	URN-1	2	1800	Urine	SM-18IHJ

## 1.5.2 Recording Subject Level Data

The sample form above (Figure 5) is linked to the data table, which is generated when the form is created by the researcher. Only two fields on the form, Subject ID, and Collection ID are enough to link the specimen data to a subject. In the example above samples SM-93892, SM-FHUE8, and so on belong to subject SUB-0011 linked through collection kit COL-F6103.

epiSampler uses a data ‘spider’ to constantly crawl the underlying data tables looking for links between data tables. As long there is at least one table containing both Subject ID and Collection ID, epiSampler will be able to identify the relationship.

### Putting it together

As epiSampler crawls the database, the relationships diagramed above are established. As a result, using the epiSampler interface we can search for specimen SM-93892 and know that it is Buffy Coat stored in CryoBox BC-1, Well 1, and that the subject to which the specimen belongs was HIV negative and weighed 160 on the date of collection, and is a man born in 1978.

## Chapter 2

### 2.1 Getting Started

Note: You will need an internet connection to download, install, and register epiSampler. Additionally, you will need a connection to create or add an already existing database.

#### 2.1.1 Downloading epiSampler

1. Go to <http://episampler.com/download>
2. Download the installation package epiSystem.zip, unzip the folder and double click on epiSystem.jar. Upon launching epiSystem, the program will check the epiSampler.com servers for software updates. Any necessary updates will be installed, after which epiSampler will open.

Note: epiSampler is a java-based application. You may need to download and install Java Version 6 at <http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp>

**Tip:** You will always **open epiSampler by double clicking on epiSystem.jar**. It may be worthwhile to create a shortcut (PC: right click on the file, select make shortcut) or alias (OSX) and place it on your desktop.

#### 2.1.2 Registering epiSampler on a Network:

You have two options for joining a network:

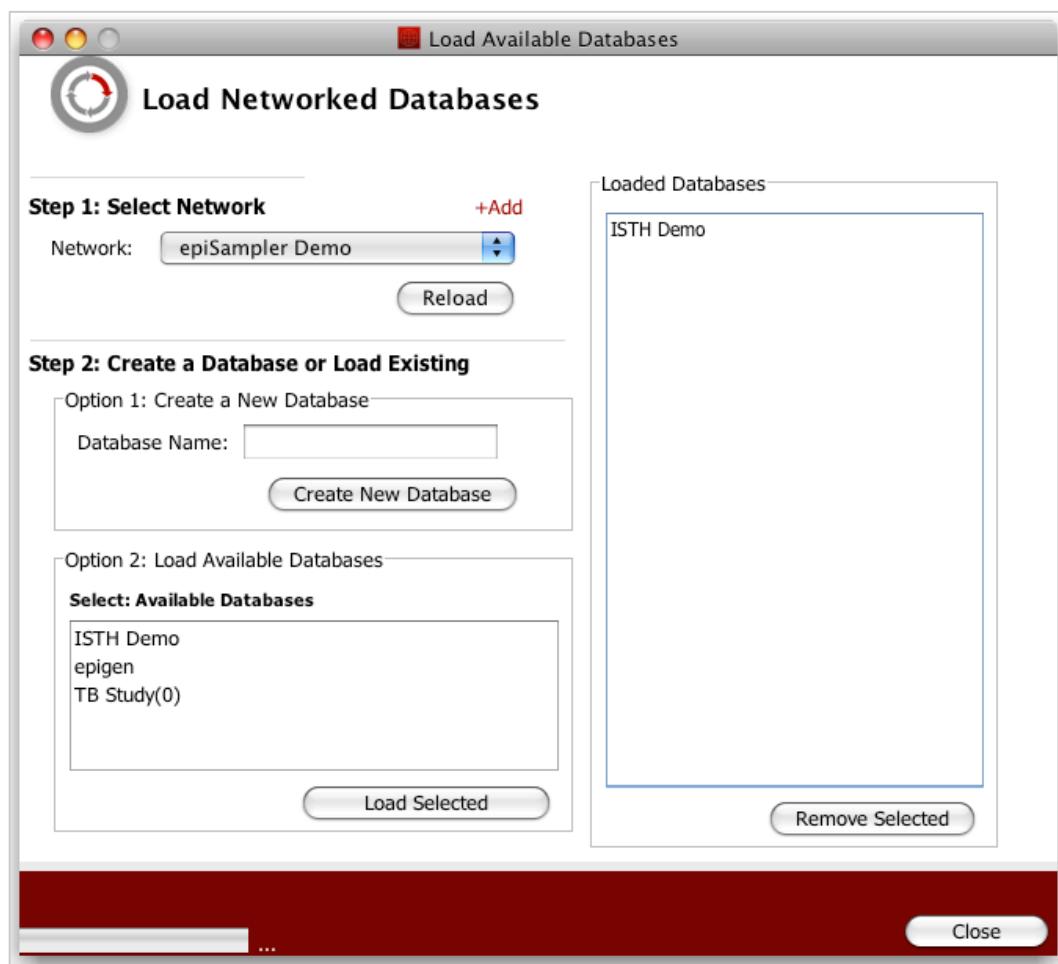
- 1) Join an existing network – If you are adding epiSampler to a new computer and would like to connect to an existing network and project you will need the Network ID and Network Key.

- or -
- 2) Creating a new network – if this is the first installation of epiSampler for this project you may need to create a new network. Go to <http://episampler.com/registration>

If epiSampler is not yet connected to a network, you will be automatically prompted to enter this information upon launching the program.

## 2.2 Creating or Adding an Existing Network or Database

To add an additional network, create a new project or to connect to an existing project click the 'Add' button above 'Connect to a Database' in the login window, or open the window from *Menu: File-> Add Database*



### 2.2.1 Creating and Loading a Database:

Select the appropriate network, or add a new network

- A) To create a new project/database, enter a project name and press 'Create New Database'.  
-or-
- B) To load an existing database, select the project from the list of available databases and press 'Load Selected'.

**Important:** After loading a database you will need to restart epiSampler. If you have created a new database you will be able to begin working with it immediately. If you have loaded an existing

database, you may need to wait until all of the existing data has been downloaded. The status of the current synchronization is visible in the bottom left corner of the login screen.

## 2.2.2 Removing a Database

Select the database you wish to remove from the 'Loaded Databases' list and press 'Remove Selected'. This will remove the database from this computer ONLY. The database will remain on the network and on any other computers that have it loaded. To permanently delete the database, you will need to do so through the admin panel on epiSampler.com <http://episampler.com/admin>

## 2.3 User Accounts

### 2.3.1 Adding a New User

New users can be added from the Login window as well as from *Menu: Settings -> User Accounts*

Follow the prompts to create a new account.

Tip: Default Location – select the location where this computer will be used most. If the location is not yet in the list, you may add a new location by clicking on '+New'

The screenshot shows a Mac OS X style dialog box titled 'Create New User'. At the top right is a red close button, a yellow minimize button, and a green maximize button. Below the title bar is the epiSampler logo and the text 'epiSampler™ Register a New User...'. The dialog contains several text input fields and dropdowns:

- Full Name: [empty text field]
- User ID: [empty text field]
- Default Location: A dropdown menu showing 'ISTH' with a '+' and 'New' button next to it.
- Password: [empty text field]
- Re-type Password: [empty text field]
- Password Hint: [empty text field]

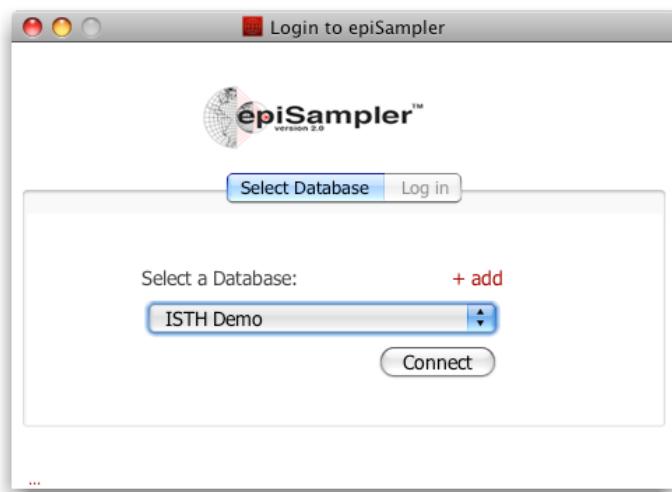
At the bottom right of the dialog is a large 'Register User' button.

Figure 5 - Registering a New User

### 2.3.2 Logging In

**Step 1)** Select the Database you wish to work with from the dropdown and press 'Connect'.

**Step 2)** Select the your name from the list of users, or click 'Add' to add a new user to the project. Enter your password and press the 'Login' button.



### 2.3.3 Switching Database /User:

You can switch between databases and login as another user by clicking on '[change user or database]' on the epiSampler desktop.



### 2.3.4 Managing Accounts – Changing your password

User accounts can be further edited and managed at *Menu: Settings->User Accounts*.

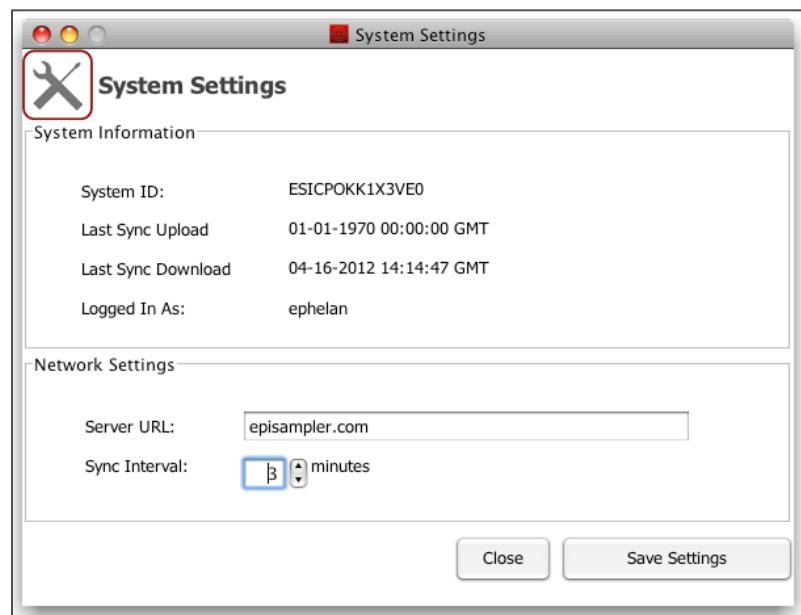
You may change your password, default location and full name here. You will not be able to change your User ID. You may delete users under the 'All Accounts' tab.

## 2.4 System Settings

Launch the system setting window by clicking on the System Settings Icon on the Quick menu or from *Menu: Settings -> System Settings*

**System ID:** This unique identifier allows this installation to be identified over the network. It is most important when setting up remote printing

**Server URL:** epiSampler is currently hosted by epiSampler.com. Future versions will



allow for private hosting. Until then, server URL is disabled.

**Synch Interval:** Network Synchronization occurs at regular intervals.

**Save Settings** by clicking the 'Save Settings' Button.

## 2.5 Printer Setup

Open the printer settings window from Menu: Settings -> Printer Settings

### Margins

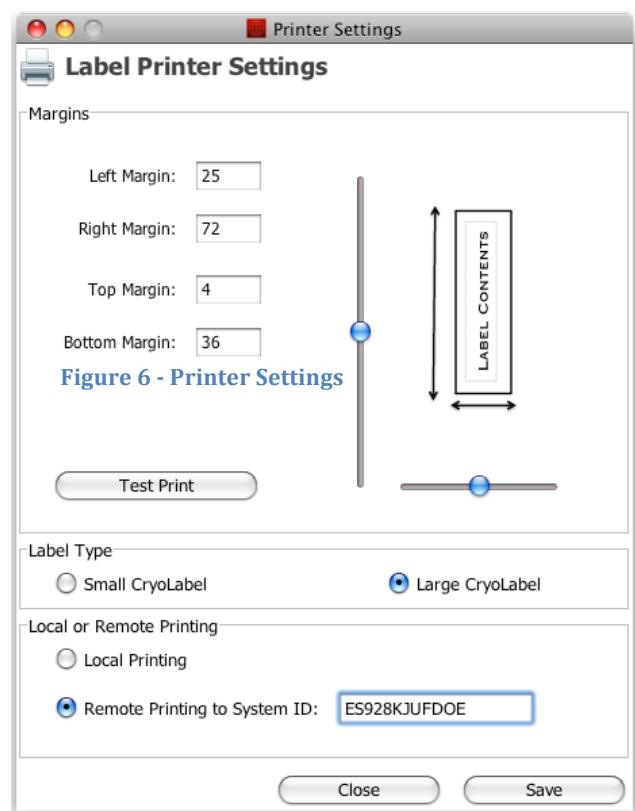
Every printer is different, and so you will need to adjust the margins to best align the label content on the label. Adjust one margin at a time and observe the changes using Test Print. When you have best adjusted the alignment, you may save the changes.

### Local vs. Remote Printing

Select local printing if the computer you are working with is connected directly to the barcode printer. If you have multiple installations of epiSampler in a lab, or across multiple sites you may print from any installation, over the network to any computer that is able to print locally.

### Setting up remote printing

You will need to locate or obtain the System ID of the computer to which you wish to print remotely. The System must be on the same network. Select 'Remote Printing' and enter the System ID of the destination computer. You may want to print a test page to ensure everything is set up correctly.



## 2.6 The epiSampler Desktop



Figure – epiSampler Quick Menu and Desktop

## Chapter 3

### Creating Your First Project

## 3.1 Biological Specimens

### 3.1.1 Understanding a collection

**Advice:** Make sure you have read the first chapter before creating a project.

A Collection Kit automatically links all of the specimens and paper forms in the kit via a unique Collection ID. The first step in printing collection kits is to create a kit template. Collection kits can be printed on-demand once a template has been created. While you can edit a collection kit template at any time, it is important to put consideration into the requirements of your collection kit. Kit Labels will include the collection name as well as a sequential kit number. If planned in advance, the kit # can be made to correspond with subject identifiers. This is very helpful in keeping track of subjects and kits in the lab settings outside of epiSampler.

Consider this example: a study requires that there two collections for each subject. While each consists of the same number and type of materials, if we create only one template, the kit numbers will rapidly run out of sync with the any sequential subject identifiers. If, however, we create two templates, each with the same set of elements, but call one *Sample Study – Initial Collection* and the other *Sleepless Study - Follow up* then when we print the kits we will have:

Sample Study - Initial Collection| Kit # 1  
Sample Study - Follow up | Kit # 1

Sample Study - Initial Collection| Kit # 2  
Sample Study - Follow up | Kit # 2

This will be convenient if the Subject IDs take the form SUB-0001, SUB-0002, etc.

**Tip:** Not all labels and specimen IDs must be recorded in epiSampler. It may be useful to print extra labels to be used only in the lab setting to keep the various pieces together. For example, it might be worthwhile to label a vial for whole blood even if the sample will be centrifuged and the collection vial discarded. It may also be helpful to label a container for the kit elements, for example, a ziplock bag, consent forms and microscope slides.

### 3.1.2 Creating a Collection Kit

To create a new collection kit, click on the collection kit icon on the quick menu, or select it from *Menu: Collections->Create Collection Kit*

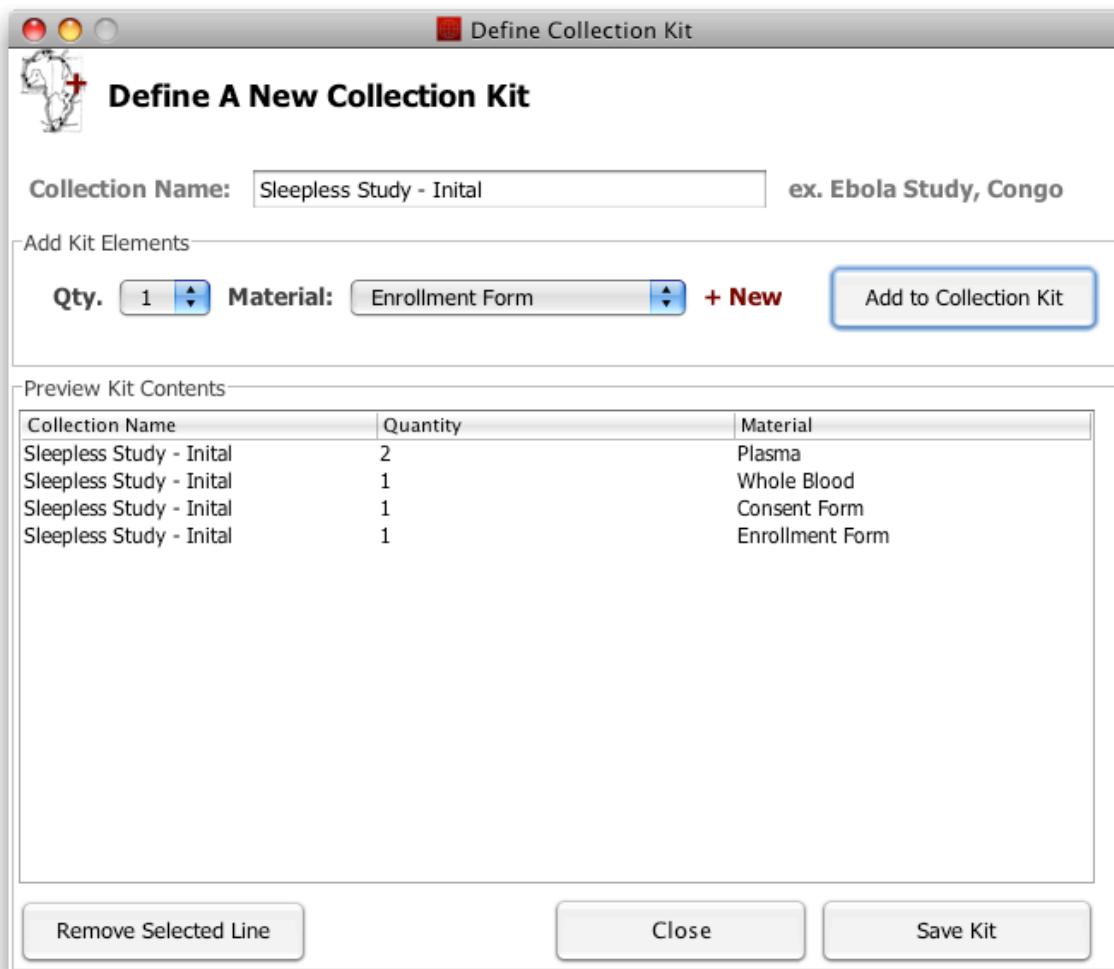


Figure 7 - Creating a New Collection Kit

**Collection Name:** The collection kit name will appear on all printed labels. It should be informative, but remember to keep it short enough to print: two to three words works best.

**Adding Kit Elements to the Template:** Select the number of similar elements – for example, two vials of Plasma – and the material, and click 'Add to Collection Kit'. To remove an element from the template, select the element in the preview list and press 'Remove Selected Line'.

**Finishing Up:** Once you have finished working with the template, press 'Save Kit'.

Note: You will be able to edit the template at any time.

FYI: A new epiSampler project will not include any material types. You can add a new material type from here by clicking 'New' next to the Material dropdown. You can also add or edit materials under *Menu: Settings -> Materials*

## 3.2 Data Forms

See Chapter 1 for a review of data structures in epiSampler.

epiSampler can be used to collect any type of study-related data, from subject demographics, to clinical data, to specimen-level assay results. Researchers can determine what to collect by creating data survey forms. Survey forms may contain any number of the following elements:

<b>Input Type</b>	<b>Input Format</b>	<b>Validation Rules</b>
<b>Textfield</b>	Short answers	Integer, Integer in Range, Number, Number in Range, Contains, Does Not Contain, In Database, Not in Database, Non-Blank
<b>Date</b>	Dates	Before, After, Date in Range
<b>Textarea</b>	Longer text answers	Contains, Does Not Contain, Non-Blank
<b>Dropdown</b>	Multiple options, one choice	None
<b>Button Group</b>	Multiple options, one choice	None
<b>Checkboxes</b>	Multiple options, many choices	None

### 3.2.1 Validation Rules Explained

Textfields, Textareas and Date Fields allow study staff to manually type in a response, while buttons, dropdowns and checkboxes allow only for the selection of pre-determined responses. Because manually entered data is more susceptible to human-error, a researcher can impose certain field-level validation rules on these form elements. Each element can employ up to two validation rules.

**None:** No data checks will be performed, all responses, including non-responses, or blank data will be accepted.

**Integer:** The response must be an integer. Example: Question: Days since onset of fever. Acceptable Response: 5

**Integer in range:** The response must be an integer within a given range. The researcher will be able to determine the minimum and maximum acceptable values.

**Non-Blank:** Any response will be accepted, but the field cannot be left blank.

**Number:** The response must be a number. Example: Question: Weight in lbs: Acceptable Response: 156.4

**Number in Range:** The response must be a number within a range set by the researcher.

**In Database:** The form will query any table in the database to check if the entered response can be found in a specified table and column. The researcher must provide the table name and the variable name. These are best found using the VisualQuery Builder.

**Not in Database:** Like above, the form will query the database to see that the response does not already exist in a specified table and column. This is useful for ensuring the entered values are unique. The researcher must provide the table name and the variable name. These are best found using the VisualQuery Builder. See tip for preventing duplicate forms from being entered under tips for Subject IDs below.

**Contains:** The response must contain characters specified by the researcher. For example, if your study's Subject IDs always conform to a specific format, like SUB-0001, then you may want to require that for a field collection the Subject ID, the response contains 'SUB-'.

**Does not Contain:** Same as above, but requires the response does not contain the specified text.

### 3.2.2. Building Your First Form

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. The left window is titled 'Create Survey Form' and displays a table of form elements. The right window is titled 'Form Preview' and shows the visual representation of the form.

Question	Input Type	Element ID
Subject ID	textfield	FE:SL27
Date of Birth	date	FE:NIV6
Gender	buttongroup	FE:C317
Education Level Completed	checkboxes	FE:GC6V

**Form Preview:**

**Sleepless Study Enrollment**

- 1) Subject ID
- 2) Date of Birth

Gender  Male  Female

Education Level Completed

All  Primary School  High School  Associates Degree  
 Bachelors Degree  Masters Degree  Doctoral Degree  
 None

Figure 8 - Survey Form Builder

#### Naming your Form

Select a name that will be informative for your study staff. When opening the form to enter data, they will select from a list of all available forms.

Forms are presented in alphabetical order, so to ensure the study forms are presented in the order in which they are used, it may be worthwhile to number them. For example, 1- Study Enrollment Form, 2- Study Follow-up Data, 3- Study Closeout Form. You will select a name for the underlying data table when the form is published.

#### Adding Elements to the Survey Form

Select the element tab for the element type you would like to add.

##### Question Label

This describes the variable you wish to collection. Example: Date of Birth.

##### Variable

The question label will be automatically converted to a variable. If you would like to shorten the variable you may do so manually. Variables cannot contain spaces or special characters.

**Textfield:** Textfields are best used for short one or two word or number responses. Select any additional validation rules you would like to apply to the field, and provide any required parameters. Make sure the parameters are appropriate to the validation rule, or the responses will never pass validation. For example, if you are using 'Integer in Range' and provide 4 as the

minimum and 2 as the maximum, all responses will fail because no response can satisfy these requirements.

**Textarea:** Textareas are used for longer responses, typically a notes or description field. Textareas can also employ validation rules, but the types are limited as textareas are usually for optional or highly variable responses.

**Dropdown:** Dropdowns are the familiar lists you see on other software or internet forms. They provide the user with a list of options from which only one can be chosen. Example: A list of Age ranges a subject might belong to, Ethnicities, or Years of Experience.

**Date:** The date field looks like a textfield but also uses a graphical calendar for entering dates. Date fields have their own validation rules: before, after or date in range. The limits must be provided in the specified date format: dd/mm/yyyy. The 'Current Date' option, when selected, will always represent the date on which the form is being completed. If we were to use the 'before' validation rule, and selected 'Current Date', a user would be unable to select any date beyond the date on which they are entering data.

**Button Group:** Like a dropdown, a button group allows a user to select only one of any number of options. This is best used when the number of options is limited to 2 or 3. Example: gender.

**Checkboxes:** Checkboxes allow the user to select any number of choices from a provided list of options. When creating a list of options, the additional options all and none are added to the checkbox field. Selected options will be recorded in the data table separated by commas.

**Section:** A section divider, helpful in breaking the form into discreet sections.

After filling out the required information for any form type, press the 'Add' button. The form element will be added to the list of elements above, and added to the form preview on the right. The validation rules are now live and it is a good idea to test them on the preview before publishing the form.

**Editing form elements** To edit a form element, select it from the list of elements at the top of the form builder. Make any desired changes and press 'Save Changes'. If you press 'Add', and additional form element with the new information will be added to the form.

**To delete a form element** select it from the list of elements then right click on the list. Select delete from the menu.

**To move an element up or down on the form,** select it from the list of elements and right click on the list. Select move up or move down from the menu.

**Critical!!** The first field on your form: Remember, the data form is a graphical user interface for the underlying data table. In order for the data on this form to be linked by epiSampler to other project data, **the first field must be a Subject ID, Collection ID or Specimen ID.**

## Saving a Form without Publishing

You may save a survey form without publishing it. The survey form will be available for editing over the network. This is a great option when collaboratively developing a project. DO NOT simultaneously make edits to a survey form. Only the most recently edits will apply, but corruption of the form and underlying table are possible.

## Build and Publish the Survey Form

When you are done building the survey form, press Build and Publish. You will be asked give the underlying data table a nickname. Remember that this is the name you will use when querying the data, and looking up data tables. epiSampler will generate an internal table name that conforms to certain standards. After naming the form press 'Compile and Publish'.

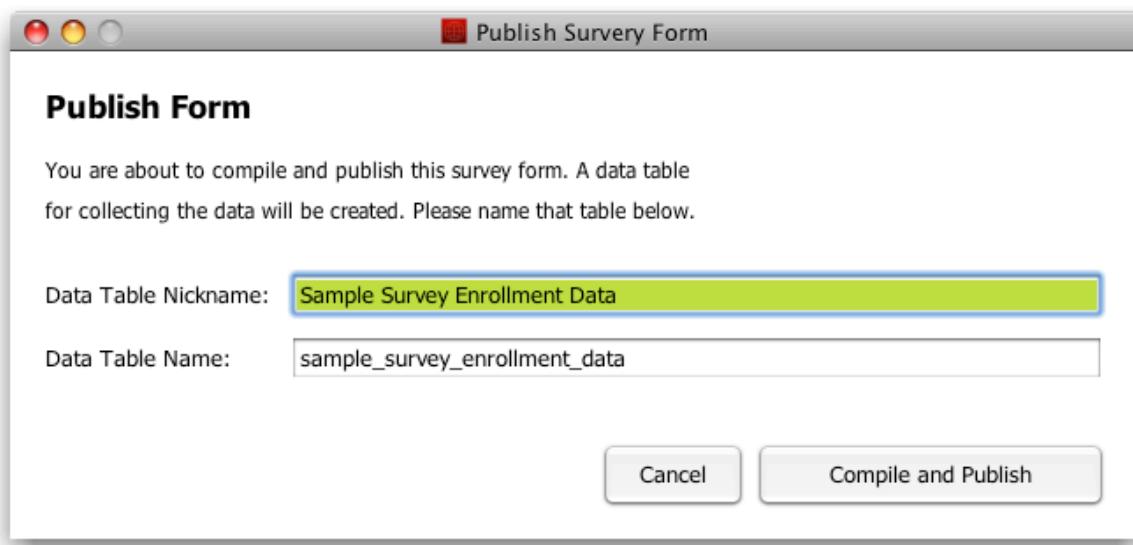


Figure 9 - Publish Survey Form

**Notice:** You are able to edit survey forms at any time. However, doing so often means altering the underlying database structure not only on your computer but across the network. While epiSampler anticipates this, the more modifications made to a form and table, the higher the chances of error.

**Please review survey forms multiple times before publishing a form.**

## Editing a Survey Form

To edit a survey form, click 'Edit' on the Survey Form Builder, or open from *Menu: Data -> Data Collection -> Edit Survey Form*

You may make edits to fields, and add additional fields to a form just as you would if you were creating it for the first time.

## Things to Consider

Deleting a Form Field. You can delete a field from the form, but the associated variable in the underlying data table will not be removed. In the future when forms are submitted, the associated field will be left blank.

## **Adding Fields to a Form**

You may add new fields to a form at any time. The underlying table will be expanded to include the new variable. All previous records for which this variable was not collected will be blank. You will be able to enter this information manually.

Variable names for existing fields cannot be changed. While you may change the question as it appears on the form, the underlying variable name will not change. If it is a subtle change, or grammatical correction, this should not pose an issue. For more substantive changes, consider deleting the original form field and adding a replacement.

**Remember:** editing forms also means making significant alterations to the underlying database, not only on your computer, but on the server as well as every other networked computer. It is highly recommended that you make as few changes as possible, and when making changes that include adding or removing variables, you double check the preview before publishing the changes.

### **To Barcode or Not To Barcode.**

From the barcode tab you can select whether or not this form is barcoded. If you select yes, the first field of the underlying table will be Collection ID. The published form will contain a field at the top asking the user to scan the barcode. The form will automatically convert the barcode into a Collection ID and record it in the table. This is preferable to manually asking a user to enter a Collection ID.

**Barcoding a survey form cannot be undone after publishing.**

### **Tips:**

#### **→ If the first field is Subject ID:**

- 1) Consider using the 'Contains' validation rule if your subject ids have a consistent format.  
Ex: SUB, ID, etc
- 2) Consider using the 'Not in Database' validation rule to ensure that the form data is entered only once. Since the underlying table is not yet created, you will have to make a decision now on what you will name it. If you name your form Study Enrollment Form, your underlying table could be named Study Enrollment Data. When you name a form, the form is given a nickname, like the one we just decided on, as well as a technical name which epiSampler uses internally. Internal table names are always all lower case, spaces are replaced with '\_', and no special characters, like \$ % & are permitted. Thus, our data table name would be study\_enrollment\_data. The column name is always upper case. Spaces are replaced with '\_' and no special characters are allowed. Therefore the field Subject ID will always be represented as SUBJECT\_ID in epiSampler tables.

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a validation rule. At the top, there is a horizontal menu bar with tabs: Barcode, Textfield (which is selected and highlighted in blue), Textarea, Dropdown, Date, Button Group, Checkboxes, and Section. Below the menu, the configuration fields are as follows:

- Question Label:** Subject ID
- DB Variable:** SUBJECT\_ID
- Validation Rules** section:
  - Validation rule:** Not in Database (selected)
  - Validation rule:** None
  - Table:** study\_enrollment\_data
  - Column:** SUBJECT\_ID (highlighted with a blue border)
- Buttons:** Clear and Add

Figure 10 - Adding a Subject ID validation

#### → If the first field is Specimen ID:

Consider checking that the Specimen ID was created by epiSampler by using the "In Database" validation rule. Every label created by epiSampler is recorded in a table called 'sample\_kits'. The first field of this table is SPECIMEN\_ID and the second is COLLECTION\_ID. Like above, you can set the validation rule to query this table and check if the record exists. If epiSampler created the Specimen ID it will be found in this table. Otherwise it is likely the user has made an error entering the specimen. This sort of validation will make sure that all of the data can be linked together later on.

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a validation rule. At the top, there is a horizontal menu bar with tabs: Barcode, Textfield (selected), Textarea, Dropdown, Date, Button Group, Checkboxes, and Section. Below the menu, the configuration fields are as follows:

- Question Label:** Specimen\_ID
- DB Variable:** SPECIMEN\_ID
- Validation Rules** section:
  - Validation rule:** In Database (selected)
  - Validation rule:** None
  - Table:** sample\_kits
  - Column:** SPECIMEN\_ID

Figure 11 - Adding a Textfield

### 3.2.3 Managing Published Survey Forms

The screenshot shows a Mac OS X-style window titled "Manage Survey Forms". The window contains a table with two columns: "Survey Form" and "Status". The data is as follows:

Survey Form	Status
Data Survey Form	PUBLISHED
PopGen Clinical Data Form	PUBLISHED
PopGen Control Information...	INACTIVE
PopGen Subject Data Form	PUBLISHED

At the bottom of the window are two buttons: "Activate" and "Deactivate".

Survey forms cannot be deleted. This decision was made during development to limit the possibility of accidentally deleting data. Instead, forms can be made 'Active' or 'Inactive'. Active forms appear in the list of Survey Forms available for data entry. Inactive forms and the underlying data are maintained for the life of the project and can be re-activated and edited at any time.

To manage survey forms navigate to *Menu: Data -> Data Collection -> Manage Forms*

Select the Survey Form you wish to manage, and click either Activate or Deactivate.

## Chapter 4

### Running A Study

#### 4.1 Printing Collection Kits

Open the Collection Kit Printing tool by either clicking the Kits Label on the Quick Menu or from *Menu: Specimens->New->Labels*

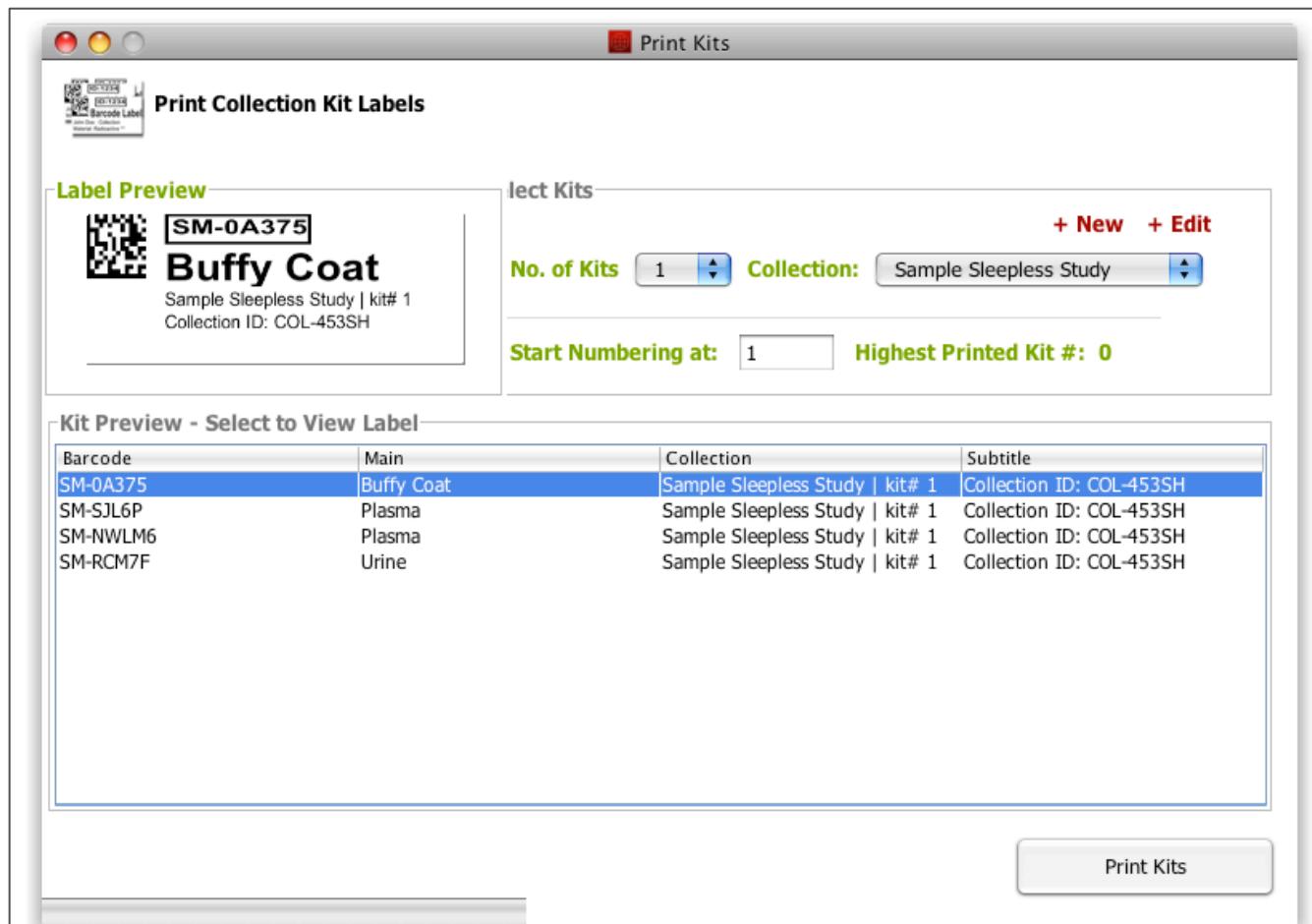


Figure 12 - Printing Collection Kits

Select the collection kit template from the dropdown and enter the number of kits you wish to print. Collection kit labels are printed with a sequential kit # identifier. The last highest kit # is shown under the collection template dropdown.

You may print any kit # higher than the highest printed kit #. In order to avoid creating duplicate numbered kits with different collection IDs, epiSampler will not print collection kits with numbers smaller than this.

If you select a starting number smaller than the last highest printed kit number, you will be prompted to reprint the kit. If the kit was never printed because you started printing at an arbitrarily high #, you will not be able to print kits below this starting point.

You may preview the labels by selecting the label of interest from the preview table. Only one collection kit is shown in the preview regardless of the number of kits you intend to print.

When you have finished preparing the collection kits, press the 'Print Kits' buttons.

**A Note on Remote Printing** If you have set up remote printing, a remote printing dialog will appear any time you attempt to print a label. Enter a name for the print job. This will help you identify it on the destination computer's remote printing print queue.

## 4.2 Reprinting Labels.

### 4.2.1 Individual Labels

Open with *Menu: Labeling->Reprint Labels ->Single Label*. You may reprint single labels if you know the Specimen ID. Enter the Specimen ID and press 'Reprint'.

### 4.2.2 Collection Kits

You may reprint entire kits or portion of collection kits using the kit reprinting tool found under *Menu: Labeling->Reprint Labels ->Collection Kit*

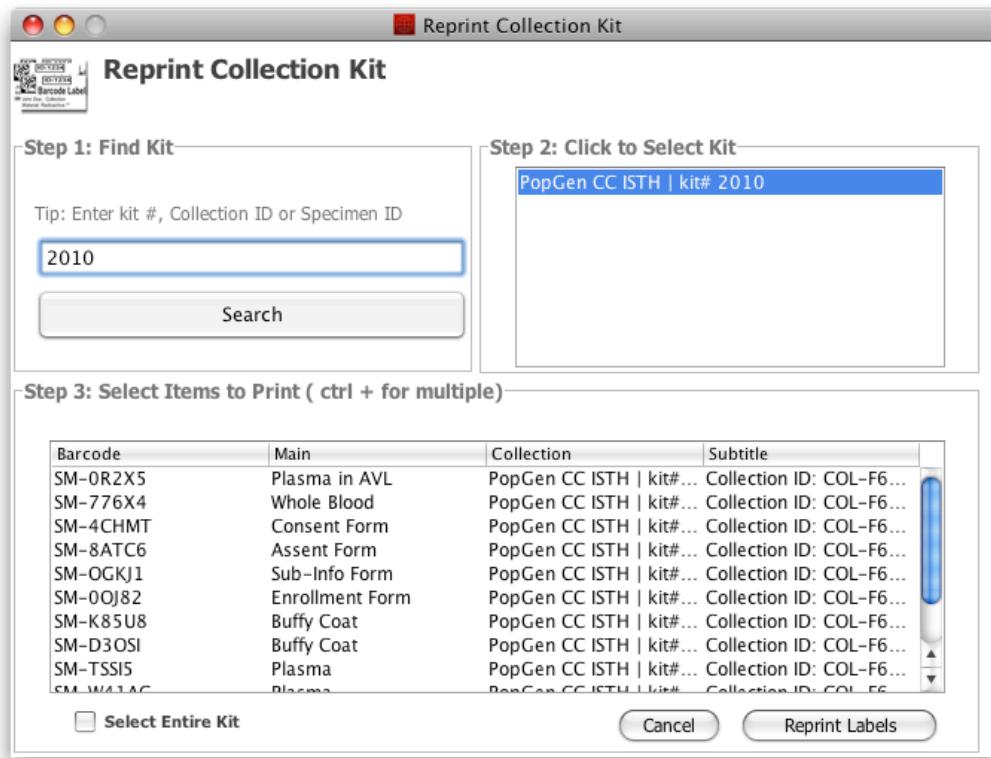


Figure 13 - Reprinting Collection Kits

Enter either a kit number, as shown above, Specimen ID or Collection ID in the search field. All matching kits will be displayed in the list to the right. Select the desired kit and the elements will be

displayed below. You may select individual elements to reprint, or you may select the entire kit by checking the 'Select Entire Kit' checkbox. Press 'Reprint Labels' to print.

## 4.3 Labeling Derived Specimens

**Understanding:** 'Derived specimens' refer to any specimen material that does not come directly from the activity of an initial collection. For example, when whole blood is separated and aliquoted into plasma, the plasma is considered a primary specimen; it was initially part of the collection kit, and was created at the time of collection. If two weeks later you were to aliquot some of the plasma into a second vial, and wanted to record the information in epiSampler, the second vial would be considered a derived sample and its parent specimen the original vial of plasma. In this way, additional aliquots or products (cDNA, RNA, etc) can be linked to a specimen, collection and subject.

You can create labels for derived materials by *Menu: Specimens -> Derived ->Labels*

The screenshot shows the 'Derived Specimens Labels' application window. On the left, there's a section for 'Upload from CSV File' with a 'file:' input field, a 'Browse' button, and a 'Get Template' button. Below this is a 'No. of Labels:' slider set to 8. At the top right, there's a preview panel showing a label template with a barcode, ID (ID-YH8J7), title (Plasma Aliquots-2), subtitle (Example Study), and material (Material: Plasma). A 'Print Labels' button is also present. At the bottom, there's a table where rows represent individual labels. The first row (ID-50YGO) has a red background. The second row (ID-YH8J7) is highlighted with a red border. The table columns are: Specimen ID, Main Title, Subtitle, and Material. The data in the table is as follows:

Specimen ID	Main Title	Subtitle	Material
ID-50YGO	Plasma Aliquots-1	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-YH8J7	Plasma Aliquots-2	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-6F76G	Plasma Aliquots-3	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-761GD	Plasma Aliquots-4	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-L00GN	Plasma Aliquots-5	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-Q23PY	Plasma Aliquots-6	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-7HW54	Plasma Aliquots-7	Example Study	Material: Plasma
ID-W8407	Plasma Aliquots-8	Example Study	Material: Plasma

Figure 14 - Derived Specimen Labeling

### Creating Labels

Enter a descriptive title in the title field and a starting number in the start field. Label titles will be generated with sequential numbering in the form Title-Number. For example: Plasma Aliquot - 1,

Plasma Aliquot -2, etc. Enter any addition information as a subtitle and select the material from the dropdown menu.

Drag the slider from left to right to generate more or fewer labels. You can also enter the exact number of labels in the field to the right of the slider.

### **Uploading Labels**

You can create labels in a spreadsheet program, such as excel, and upload them to epiSampler for printing. To get started, download a template by pressing the 'Get Template' button.

You can have epiSampler generate unique specimen IDs by using '<barcode>' as a placeholder in your spreadsheet file. When you upload the file, epiSampler will replace the placeholders with unique IDs.

To upload a table of barcodes, browse for the file on your computer by pressing the 'browse' button. Select the file to upload. If the file can be imported you will see a list of the labels in the table. Select a label to see a preview image.

You will have the option to record information on the specimens immediately using the Bulk Processing tool.

### **Preview and Print**

Preview a label by clicking on a row in the table of labels. To print the labels press the 'Print Labels' button.

## 4.4 Recording Specimen Information

### 4.4.1 Sample processing: one at a time.

Process Specimens

BC-2 BOX 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81

**Specimen Overview**

SM-02744  
**Buffy Coat**  
PopGen CC ISTH | kit# 2128  
Collection ID: COL-I2K46

Parent ID: NONE  
Collection ID: COL-I2K46  
Material: Buffy Coat  
Creation Date: \*\*\*\*\*  
Volume: 450 ul

Enter Specimen ID: SM-02744

Specimen Information

+ New

Volume: 450 ul CryoBox: BC-2 BOX 7 Position: 18 Location: ISTH

Notes:

Bulk Processing Save Changes

Recently Processed Specimens

Specimen ID	Material	Collection ID	Creation Date
SM-076FF	Buffy Coat	COL-KV882	2012-04-04 02:56 PM
SM-P47P5	Buffy Coat	COL-5GOI5	2012-04-04 02:55 PM
SM-00CLH	Buffy Coat	COL-76VOU	2012-04-04 02:54 PM
SM-YK767	Buffy Coat	COL-IQ72F	2012-04-04 02:54 PM

Figure 15 - Processing Samples

#### Processing a Sample

Sample Processing refers to the process of recording basic information about the sample volume and storage information in epiSampler

To start, **scan a specimen barcode** into the field labeled 'Enter Specimen ID'. epiSampler will automatically load any information it has about the specimen and display it in the 'Specimen Overview' box.

Enter the **sample volume** (or weight) and select the volume units.

Enter the **CryoBox ID**. If you have already created a box then scan the barcode on the cryobox. If you enter a new CryoBox ID you will be prompted to fill out basic information about the box and able to print a label upon saving. epiSampler will display the contents of the selected box in the diagram on the upper left.

To select a storage **position**, click on an open position on the CryoBox diagram, or type the position in the position field. If there are other specimens in the box, the location dropdown will be disabled, as all specimens in the same box must be in the same lab.

Add any other applicable **notes** and press the 'Save Changes' button.

### Correcting Errors or Making Changes

The last four processed specimens are listed at the bottom of the Sample Processing window. The specimen you just recorded will be at the top of this list. Click on the specimen to reload the information. You may make any changes or corrections and press 'Save Changes'. If the specimen is no longer listed below, you can scan the specimen barcode again and epiSampler will load the information for editing.

## 4.4.2 Entering Specimen Information in Bulk.

When you print collection kits you are asked if you would like to process the specimens in bulk. Selecting yes will open the following window. You can also reach bulk specimen processing by clicking on Bulk Processing on the Single Sample Processing Window.

The screenshot shows the 'Bulk Specimen Registration & Storage' window. At the top right is a 'Batch Upload' section with a 'Browse' button. Below it is a 'Mass Entry Helper' table with columns: Type (set to PRIMARY), Parent ID (NA), Vol from Parent (0), Collection ID (empty), Volume (400), Units (ul), Material (+ New, set to Buffy Coat), CryoBox (BC-3 BOX 1), and Location (+ New, set to ISTH). A 'Preview Data' table below shows nine rows of specimen information:

Specimen ID	Type	Parent ID	Vol from Parent	Collection ID	Volume	Units	Material	Notes	CryoBox	Position	Location
SM-02744	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-I2K46	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	1	ISTH
SM-0657E	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-S7KYQ	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	2	ISTH
SM-08Q8J	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-X0707	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	3	ISTH
SM-0G63W	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-753ED	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	4	ISTH
SM-OX144	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-8XX8V	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	5	ISTH
SM-10DW3	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-K44CH	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	6	ISTH
SM-18R42	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-7B31Y	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	7	ISTH
SM-20AU3	PRIMARY	NA	0	COL-K8S8V	400	ul	Buffy Coat		BC-3 BOX 1	8	ISTH

At the bottom are buttons for 'Delete Selected Row(s)', 'Get Copy of Table', 'Close', and 'Register Specimens'.

The table can be used to enter information on more than one specimen at a time.

## **Working in Excel**

A copy of the table can be downloaded as .csv format by clicking 'Get Copy of Table'. You can then work with the table on your own in excel or another spreadsheet program. To load the data browse for the file with the 'Batch Upload' tool in the upper right corner of the window. You may leave the Collection ID field blank in the .csv file. The Collection IDs will be automatically added for any Specimen ID that was created by epiSampler.

**The Mass Entry Helper** makes it easier to fill out the table. Values entered in the helper will be filled into all rows on the table. In addition you can individually enter values into each table cell.

### Specimen Type

*Primary Specimens* are specimens that were collected as part of an epiSampler Collection Kit. They can be identified as having specimen IDs that begin with SM.

*Derived Specimens* are specimens that are either aliquots from a primary specimen, or products from laboratory procedures, for example cDNA or RNA extraction. Derived specimens can have any ID, but typically they begin with ID- if created by epiSampler.

### Parent ID and Volume from Parent

These two fields apply to derived specimens only. (See section above on Derived Specimens). In order for derived specimens to be linked to other collection data, they must have a parent specimen. Entering a parent specimen in the table will allow epiSampler to identify the collection to which the specimen belongs. Enter the volume used or taken from the parent specimen in the Vol from Parent. This will adjust the current volume of the parent specimen.

**To add empty rows** to the table, enter the number of empty rows you would like to add directly under the mass entry helper. Press the 'Add' button.

**To delete a row**, select a cell in the target row and press the 'Delete Selected Row(s)' button.

## **Completing Registration**

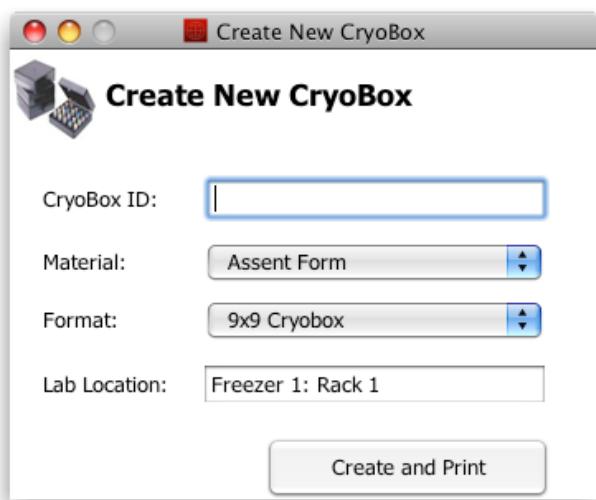
When the table has been completely filled out, press 'Register Specimens'. epiSampler will check for any missing data and register all error free records. If you have stored specimens in a cryobox that has not yet been created, you will be prompted to fill out basic information about the box, and will be able to print a label.

## **4.5 Managing Sample Storage**

One of the main strength of epiSampler is the tracking and management of biological specimens. There are multiple tools to this end.

### **4.5.1 Creating a CryoBox.**

epiSampler currently supports three common containers for sample storage. 9x9, 10x10 well cryogenic freezer boxes and 96-well plates.



The CryoBox creation dialog can be accessed from many convenience points throughout the program. To access it directly: *Menu: Storage-> Create New CryoBox*

#### **CryoBox ID**

Enter a new CryoBox ID of your choosing. We suggest something short but informative. *Example: PLASMA - BOX 1.*

#### **Format**

Select the appropriate format from the dropdown.

#### **Material**

Select the material the box will mostly contain as well as the box format.

#### **Lab Location**

Where will you store the box? The more specific you are, the more helpful epiSampler will be in helping you locate your samples. Options include: LN2 Tank 1, Rack 1-1 or Freezer 2, Shelf 3, Rack 1, etc.

When finished, press the 'Create and Print' button.

#### **4.5.2 Reprinting CryoBox Labels**

You can reprint a CryoBox label from *Menu: Labeling->Reprint Labels->CryoBox Label*  
Select the CryoBox from the dropdown menu and press Print.

#### **4.5.3 CryoBox Management**

The better organized your CryoBoxes, the easier it will be to find specimens later. You can update the storage location, as well as the content material, format and ID of any CryoBox using the Cryobox Management Tool. To make changes, select a CryoBox from the list. Make the desired changes in the 'Edit Information' pane. Press the 'Save' button to save your changes.

#### **Deleting a CryoBox**

Only empty CryoBoxes can be deleted. To delete a CryoBox, remove all of the specimens by using either

CryoBox	Lab Location	Capacity(wells)	Contains
AVL-3 BOX F	LN2 1-1	9x9 Box	Plasma in AVL
AVL-1 BOX E	LN2 1-2	9x9 Box	Plasma in AVL
PLM-2 BOX F	Hall Freezer	9x9 Box	Plasma
BC-2 BOX E	Hall Freezer	9x9 Box	Buffy Coat
BC-1 BOX F	-180 Freezer	9x9 Box	Buffy Coat
PLM-2 BOX 7	-180 Freezer	9x9 Box	Plasma
BC-2 BOX F	LN2 2-1	9x9 Box	Buffy Coat
AVL-1 BOX F	LN2 2-1	9x9 Box	Plasma in AVL
PLM-1 BOX E	Hall Freezer	9x9 Box	Plasma
PLM-2 BOX E	-180 Freezer	9x9 Box	Plasma
PLM-1 BOX 7	-180 Freezer	9x9 Box	Plasma

**Edit Information**

CryoBox ID:  Format:

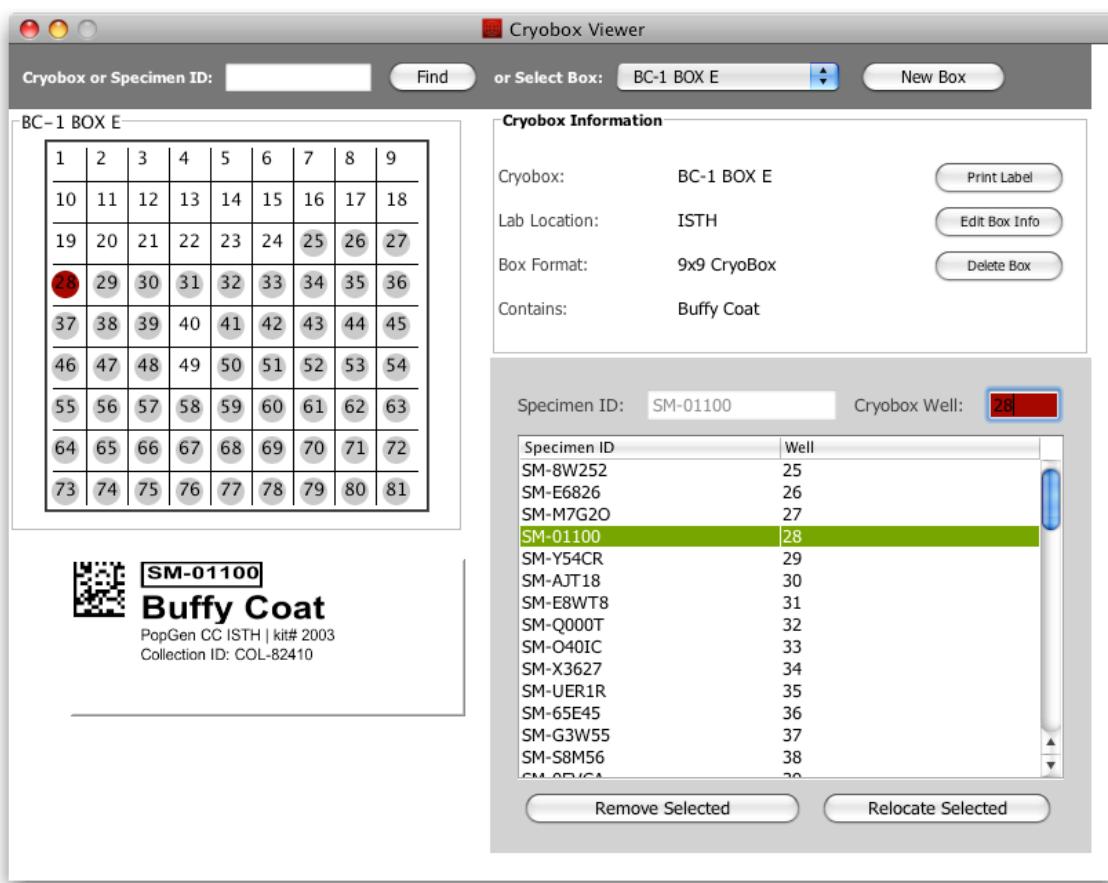
In Lab Location:  Contains:

the CryoBox Viewer or by manually changing the storage information. Once the box is empty you can select it either here or under CryoBox Viewer and press the 'Delete Box' button.

### Changing a CryoBox Name

Select the box you wish to rename from the list. Enter a new CryoBox ID in the field, and press 'Save'. If the CryoBox ID is already in use, the field will turn red and you will not be able to save the new name. After pressing save you will have the option to print a new label with the updated ID.

## 4.5.4 CryoBox Viewer



### Searching

You can search the CryoBox viewer either by entering or scanning a Specimen ID or CryoBox ID in the search box in the upper left, and pressing 'Find'. If you want to inspect the contents of an entire box, then you may also select the box from the dropdown.

Navigate the box by clicking on the locations of interest in the box diagram, or by selecting the specimen of interest in the list to the right.

## **Moving a specimen**

→ To a new position within the same box

Move a specimen by first selecting it – either by clicking on it in the diagram, or selecting it in the list. The selected specimen will be highlighted in the list and marked in red on the diagram. Select a new position for the specimen by clicking on an open well on the diagram, or by manually typing the new position in the field labeled ‘Cryobox Well’

→ To a new box

Move a specimen by first selecting it – either by clicking on it in the diagram, or selecting it in the list. Click ‘Relocate Selected’. Select a new CryoBox in the dialog. Press ‘Move’.

The CryoBox viewer will load the new CryoBox. The Specimen has been added to the box, but the well position is set to 0. Select the specimen and assign it to a well.



## **Removing a Specimen**

Removing a specimen only removes the storage information. New storage information can be added using the Sample Processing tool, or by manually editing the data. Remove a specimen by first selecting it – either by clicking on it in the diagram, or selecting it in the list. Click ‘Remove Selected’. You will be prompted to confirm the removal.

## **Deleting a Specimen**

You can permanently delete a specimen and all associated data by selecting a specimen in the list, then right clicking. Select Delete from the popup menu. You will be lead through a multi-part process to confirm deletion of the specimen.

## **Find More Information on a Specimen**

You can launch a full search on a specimen from the CryoBox Viewer by first selecting the specimen in the specimens list. Right click, and select ‘Lookup Specimen’. This will launch the Subject Viewer, which will show all known information on this specimen, all related specimens, all collection and subject level data.

## **Print Cryobox Label**

You can reprint a CryoBox label from the CryoBox Viewer by pressing ‘Print Label’ in the CryoBox Information Pane.

## **Edit Box Info**

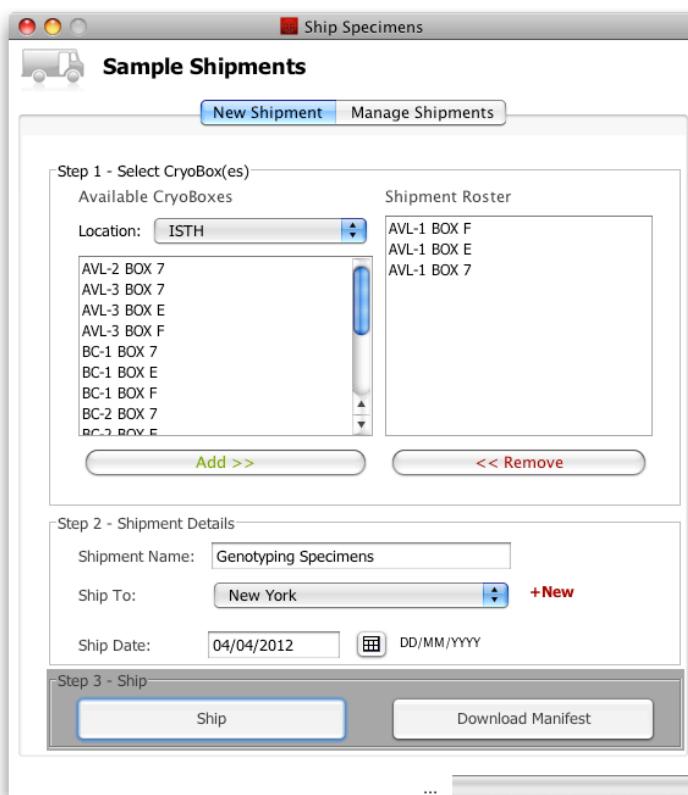
You can edit the CryoBox information by clicking the ‘Edit Box Info’ button. This will launch the CryoBox Management Tool.

## Delete Box

You can delete a CryoBox only when it is empty. You must first reassign the contents to other storage locations. Once the box is empty, press the 'Delete Box' button to permanently remove the box.

## 4.6 Shipping Specimens

epiSampler was designed for projects spanning multiple research sites. As such, epiSampler allows for the easy creation and management of specimen shipments. When specimens are shipped using epiSampler, the storage location is updated to the new location. Additionally, a shipping manifest can be easily downloaded and included in international specimen shipments.



### Downloading a manifest

After you have added the boxes to be shipped to the shipping roster you may download a csv file containing a list of the specimen IDs, the corresponding materials and box/well locations by pressing the 'Download Manifest' button.

### Receiving a Shipment

Ideally you are shipping the specimens to another lab on your epiSampler network: if so, staff in your other location will be able to receive the specimens in epiSampler. Otherwise you may mark the shipment received.

### 4.6.1 Creating a Shipment

**Step 1)** Select the shipment origination location from the dropdown menu, then select the boxes to be shipped from the table of CryoBoxes on the left. Press the 'Add' button to add the boxes to the shipment roster.

**Step 2)** Provide a name for tracking the shipment, a destination location, or add a new location to epiSampler, and select a shipment date.

**Step 3)** Press the 'Ship' Button

Once the specimens have been shipped, their locations are updated to 'In Transit'. Shipments must be 'received' in order to reflect their new locations.

Select the Manage Shipments Tab. All shipments currently in transit are displayed in the list of shipments. Select the shipment you wish to receive and add any additional notes in the notes box. Press the 'Receive' button to receive the shipment. Receiving the shipment will update the storage location of all specimens to reflect the recipient's location.

### **Cancel Shipment**

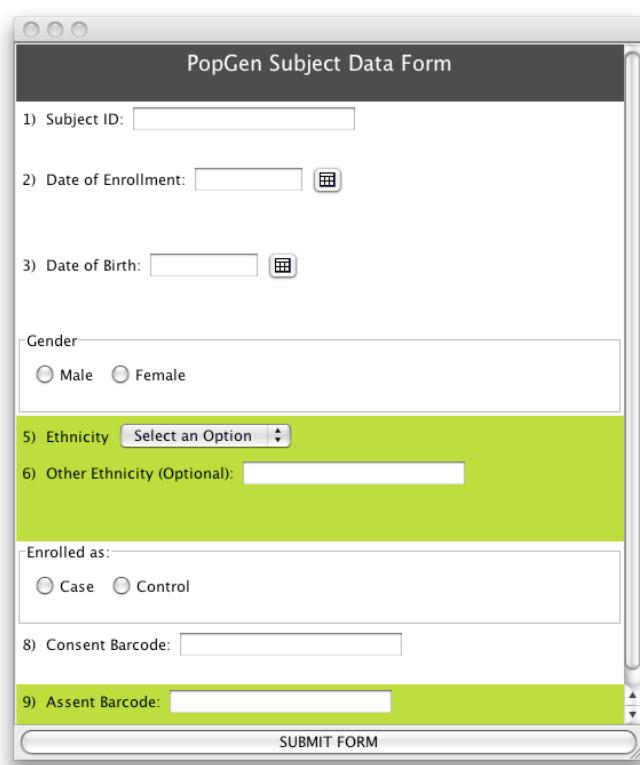
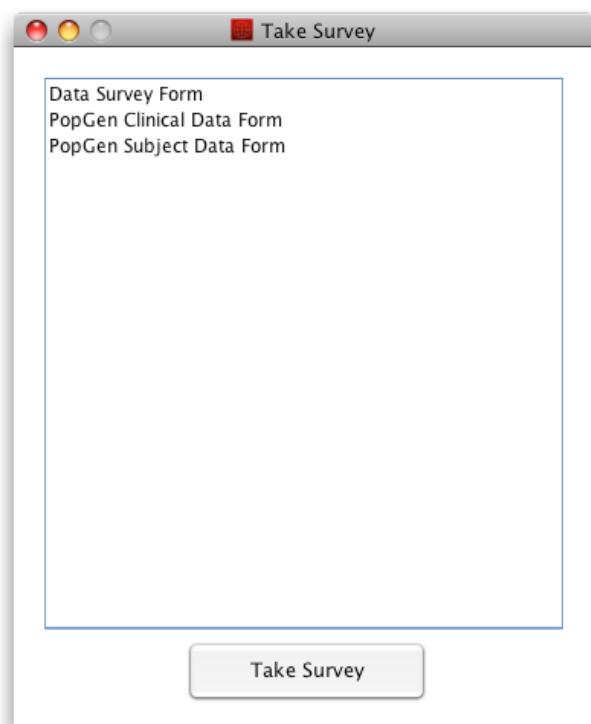
If you need to cancel or edit a shipment, select the shipment and press the 'Cancel' button. No record of the shipment will be made, and the specimen locations will revert to the original values.

## **4.7 Recording Survey Data**

### **4.7.1 Entering Study Data in Survey Forms.**

Click on the 'Data Entry' icon on the Quick Menu to launch the list of live survey forms. Select the form you wish to fill out and click 'Take Survey'

The Survey Form launches within the epiSampler desktop. Fields that have already passed validation will be green.



1) Subject ID: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Date of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ [calendar icon]

3) Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ [calendar icon]

Gender  
 Male  Female

5) Ethnicity: Select an Option

6) Other Ethnicity (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled as:  
 Case  Control

8) Consent Barcode: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Assent Barcode: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMIT FORM

Begin filling out the form as per the instructions. Must fields are validated once you have moved on to the next question. If the data is valid, the field will turn green, otherwise you will be given notice as to the error.

Only an entirely valid form will be able to be submitted.

Press the 'SUBMIT FORM' button at the bottom of the form to record the data.

## **4.7.2 Uploading Data in Bulk**

Data can be uploaded in bulk to any one table, combination of appropriate tables, or by creating a new table.

**Step 1)** Select the file of data you wish to upload. The data must be in comma-delimited format and must contain column headers. Once the table is loaded, epiSampler will attempt to match the variables against existing database table variables. If you know in advance which table you wish to import to, it might be worth getting a copy of the headers from the database table viewer.

**Step 2)** A list of tables matched in epiSampler will be displayed on the left side along with the number of matching columns in parentheses. Select the table you wish to import to or select New Table to generate a preview of the import. A summary of the import is displayed in the 'Review Import' Pane, including a list of variables that will not be matched, if any, in the 'Excluded Variables' list.

If you wish to create a new database table, rather than importing to an existing table, select New Table. epiSampler will attempt to identify if the index column is a Specimen, Collection or Subject ID. If epiSampler cannot make a determination, select the appropriate index type. You will also need to give the table a name.

**Step 3)** Once you have reviewed the import, press the 'Import to Database' button.

**User Generated Data Upload**

**Step 1 – Select File to Import**

**Step 2 – Select Table**  
 (1) popgen control subject data  
 (1) popgen clinical data  
 (3) Data Survey  
**(9) popgen subject data**   
 New Table

**Step 3 – Review Import**  
 Table Name: popgen\_subject\_data  
 Variables Matched: 9/9  
 Import Size: 88  
 Final Table Size: 208  
 'Nickname' popgen subject data

**Excluded Variables:**

New Table Name:

Choose an Index  
 Specimen ID  Subject ID  
 Collection ID

**Step 4 – Finish**

**Import Preview**

ES SUBJECT ID	ES DATE OF E...	ES DATE OF BI...	ES GENDER	ES ETHNICITY	ES OTHER_ETH...	ES ENROLLED_AS	ES CONSENT_B...	ES ASSENT_BA...	ES FDB INT RE...
ISTH-0000	19/10/2011	14/09/1974	Female	Esan	NA	Control	SM-70183	NA	L44H541U2032
ISTH-2000	18/01/2012	23/05/1981	Female	Esan	NA	Case	SM-2MW7I	NA	66F5HP16J3C7
ISTH-2001	17/01/2012	11/03/1968	Male	Urhobo	NA	Case	SM-4184G	NA	CULB7NQM7KID
ISTH-2002	18/01/2012	20/03/1976	Male	Esan	NA	Case	SM-EE137	NA	A56L0W814M2V
ISTH-2003	18/01/2012	10/07/1976	Male	Esan	NA	Case	SM-UT757	NA	C73FJD632J35
ISTH-2004	19/01/2012	20/10/2012	Male	Igbo	NA	Case	SM-ER820	NA	SW80ND0Y5UL4
ISTH-2005	19/01/2012	24/02/1986	Female	Other	ITSEKIRI	Control	SM-MV2FD	NA	8688KH2U13K0
ISTH-2006	19/01/2012	03/09/1983	Male	Igbo	NA	Control	SM-24BOK	NA	5FRG4UEEVFL
ISTH-2007	19/01/2012	16/11/1982	Male	Igbo	NA	Control	SM-3NKJ1	NA	82YQN4SOM608
ISTH-2008	19/01/2012	31/03/1984	Male	Yoruba	NA	Control	SM-30262	NA	762PHPO3R0K4
ISTH-2009	19/01/2012	24/09/1980	Female	Etsako	NA	Control	SM-143JB	NA	81H53E241R16
ISTH-2010	15/01/2012	14/06/1951	Male	Yoruba	NA	Case	SM-4CHMT	NA	C4DA2KL870IN
ISTH-2011	19/01/2012	21/12/1982	Female	Esan	NA	Control	SM-E7EK1	NA	G2S27DRN0574
ISTH-2012	19/01/2012	17/06/1977	Female	Esan	NA	Control	SM-3B136	NA	2XJQL874127A
ISTH-2013	19/01/2012	12/07/1994	Male	Yoruba	NA	Case	SM-8U86K	NA	3P37DSRT0121
ISTH-2014	20/01/2012	24/01/1974	Female	Rini	NA	Case	SM-1IIIIW73	NA	16XAFN3RN0Y27

## 4.8 Viewing Data

epiSampler does the work of linking data across multiple tables. It is possible to look up all of the data associated with any given subject, including collection level data, subject level data and information on all of the related specimens using the Subject Viewer. The subject viewer can be launched by clicking the Subject Viewer icon on the quick menu, or simply by entering or scanning any barcode, subject ID or cryobox in the quick search field.

### 4.8.1 Subject Viewer

The screenshot shows the 'Subject Viewer' application window. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder 'Scan Barcode, type Collection ID or Subject ID:' and a text input field containing 'SUB-2010' with a 'Search' button next to it. Below the search bar, the title 'Subject Viewer' is displayed with a small icon. On the left, a table titled 'Subject Data for Subject ID: ISTH-2010' lists various subject variables and their values. On the right, a list titled 'Collections' shows 'Select a Collection' with 'COL-F6103' selected. Below these sections, there are two tabs: 'Collection Data' (selected) and 'Specimens'. Under 'Collection Data', there is an 'Additional Data' table for Specimen ID: SM-1NITM. At the bottom, there are 'Close' and 'Save Changes' buttons.

epiSampler Table	epiSampler Variable	Value
Popgen Subject Data	Date Of Enrollment	01/01/2012
Popgen Subject Data	Date Of Birth	14/09/1997
Popgen Subject Data	Gender	Female
Popgen Subject Data	Ethnicity	Black
Popgen Subject Data	Other Ethnicity Optional NA	
Popgen Subject Data	Enrolled As	Case
Popgen Subject Data	Consent Barcode	SM-4CHMT

**Specimens**

**Specimens in Collection: COL-F6103**

Select specimen to see more information

Specimen ID	Material
SM-1NITM	Plasma in AVL
SM-W41AC	Plasma
SM-TSSIS	Plasma
SM-K85U8	Buffy Coat
SM-P4050	Plasma in AVL
SM-OR2X5	Plasma in AVL
SM-D3OSI	Ruffy Coat

**Additional Data**

**Specimen ID: SM-1NITM**

epiSampler Table	epiSampler Variable	Value
Sample Storage	Cryobox	AVL-3 BOX 7
Sample Storage	Well	14
Sample Storage	Location	ISTH
Sample Storage	Storage Date	2012-01-23 12:50 PM
Sample Storage	Current Volume	700
Sample Storage	User Id	oomoniwa
Spec Macro Data	Type	PRIMARY
Spec Macro Data	Parent Id	NONE
Spec Macro Data	Creation Date	2012-01-23 12:50 PM
Spec Macro Data	Initial Volume	700

## Looking up Data

Scan or enter a Specimen, Collection or Subject ID in the search field and press the 'Search' button.

- Subject Data – All associated data from user-created data forms is visible in the upper left table.
- Collections – All associated collections are displayed in the upper-right list. Click on a collection to load the collection-level data.
- Collection-level data from user-created forms is visible on the 'Collection Data' Tab.

- Specimens – All specimens belonging to the selected collection are visible on the Specimens Tab.
- Specimen Data – Select a specimen from the Specimens List on the left side of the Specimens tab to view all specimen-level data for the selected specimen.

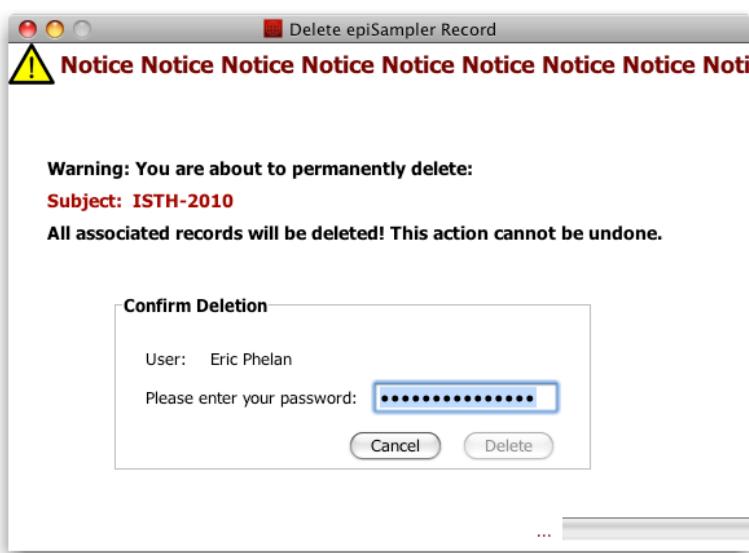
**More Storage Information:** If a specimen has been selected you can view it in the CryoBox viewer by right-clicking in the specimen data table. Select 'View in CryoBox Viewer' from the pop-up menu.

## Editing Data

To edit a value, double click on the desired data. All fields except Creation Date and User ID can be edited. To save data changes, press 'Save Changes'. You will be prompted to confirm changes. A record of the data changes will be saved in the Data Change Log

## Deleting Data

**Specimens** – Navigate to the specimen you wish to delete, and select it by clicking on the specimen on the list of specimens. Click 'Delete Specimen'.



permanently delete the specimen, or Cancel. A record of the deletion, including date and user id, but not the underlying data will be made in the data deletion log.

**Collections** – Select the collection you wish to delete from the list of available collections, or search for it directly in the search field. Press 'Delete Collection'.

**Subjects** – Load the subject of interest using the search bar. Any collection ID or specimen ID, along with the Subject ID will load the associated Subject. Press the 'Delete Subject' button.

## Confirming Deletions

After pressing delete you will be presented with a Deletion Confirmation Window. Enter your password and press 'Delete'. You will be prompted to confirm deletion of the specimen. Press OK to

**Note:** If you choose to delete a Specimen, Collection or Subject, all associated data at that data level and below will be permanently removed from your computer, the server and all other computers upon synching. For example, if you chose to delete SUBJECT ID: SUB-2010, all subject data, collections, and specimens associated with the subject, including shipping data, data export logs and data change logs will be permanently removed from epiSampler. The only records that remain are collection kit labels. These can be reprinted at any time, and the data reentered if the deletion occurred in error.

## 4.8.2 Data Table Viewer

You can directly view the underlying data tables with the Data Table Viewer. Unlike other tools, the data table viewer does not organize or link records. This is the data in its most basic format.

To open the data table viewer: *Menu: Data -> View Data -> Database Table Viewer*

The screenshot shows the 'Database Table Viewer' application window. At the top, there's a toolbar with standard Mac OS X icons (red, yellow, green) and a title bar labeled 'Database Table Viewer'. Below the title bar is a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Data', 'Help', and a 'Database Table Viewer' option. The main area is titled 'View Data Tables' with a small icon of a clipboard and a pencil. It contains a 'Select Table' dropdown menu currently set to 'Basic Specimen Data', a 'Browse' button, and a 'Number of Data Rows: 789' label. A large table follows, with columns: SPECIMEN ID, TYPE, PARENT ID, COLLECTION ID, CREATION D..., INITIAL VOLU..., MATERIAL, NOTES, USER ID, VOL UNITS, and FDB INT REC ID. The table lists numerous entries for specimens, including their collection IDs, creation dates, initial volumes, materials (e.g., Buffy Coat, Plasma in AVL), and user IDs. At the bottom of the table are 'Export Data', 'Close', and 'Save Changes' buttons.

SPECIMEN ID	TYPE	PARENT ID	COLLECTION ID	CREATION D...	INITIAL VOLU...	MATERIAL	NOTES	USER ID	VOL UNITS	FDB INT REC ID
SM-004A8	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-S25QB	2012-03-1...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	STQEL5YVT...
SM-00CLH	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-76V0U	2012-04-0...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	H6W4VY384...
SM-00V07	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-8J633	2012-03-1...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	C4N768QFM...
SM-01100	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-82410	2012-01-2...	200	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	KNNKULH6O...
SM-01C2G	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-V24US	2012-03-1...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	P4861HK05...
SM-01DMX	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-EAO6U	2012-02-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	7T7508RAJ...
SM-01PU0	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-CXM4D	2012-02-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	L1NOJMLA7FV
SM-0234L	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-50661	2012-02-1...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	M8Q17DD6N...
SM-023T8	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-870B4	2012-02-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	386J656FNE...
SM-03613	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-76C44	2012-01-2...	200	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	78MEQ0OR...
SM-0387P	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-N6P06	2012-02-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	MGB4211P4...
SM-03H6U	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-86K0J	2012-03-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		iodia	ul	3UUB3M5C5...
SM-03O2H	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-V0G70	2012-01-2...	700	Plasma		oomoniwa	ul	31OK6VTOR...
SM-03X8U	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-71450	2012-04-0...	700	Plasma		oomoniwa	ul	ON3W6TYX...
SM-05806	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-S25QB	2012-03-1...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	X231OXVDE...
SM-05V6A	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-7J170	2012-02-0...	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	WC336L17X...
SM-0614L	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-LWRO8	2012-02-0...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	UTBTM40PJF...
SM-076FF	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-KV882	2012-04-0...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	PM2UA32J...
SM-07J7	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-14Q2X	2012-01-2...	1000	Plasma		oomoniwa	ul	3H6N1XQN...
SM-08811	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-5D05U	2012-02-1...	100	Buffy Coat		oomoniwa	ul	K30AS16L40...
SM-08F48	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-71450	2012-03-3...	700	Plasma in AVL		ephelan	ul	8SIM554643JI
SM-08170	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-823YS	2012-03-2...	700	Plasma		oomoniwa	ul	08325687T...
SM-08VVFY	PRIMARY	NONE	COL-61162I	2012-02-0	700	Plasma in AVL		oomoniwa	ul	6021PI3883

Select the table you wish to view from the dropdown list. User-generated tables are listed by their Nicknames. Additionally you can load an epiSampler encrypted file directly by browsing for the file.

### Exporting Data

You can save the table to a comma-delimited format (.csv) by pressing the 'Export Data' button. A record of the data export will be visible in the Data Export Log.

### Editing Data

If the loaded data table is editable, you will see a 'Save Changes' button in the bottom right corner. Edit data directly in the table by double-clicking the value and typing in the new value. To save your changes, press 'Save Changes'. You will be prompted to confirm the data changes.

Note: Not all tables are editable. Generally, specimen, collection and subject data can be edited, but in order to maintain data integrity, certain tables are read only.

Note: FDB\_INT\_REC\_ID: This column exists on all editable tables including user-generated tables. It is a unique record id used by epiSampler to identify rows of data. You should not alter this number under any circumstances.

### 4.8.3 Visual Query

The visual query builder lets you build complex queries spanning multiple tables using a drag-and-drop interface. Launch the visual query builder by clicking on the visual query icon on the quick menu or from *Menu: Data-> View Data -> Visual Query*

**Visual Query Builder**

**1. Choose an Index**

- Subject ID
- Collection ID
- Specimen ID**

**2. Select Available Table**

- Historic Storage Information
- Current Storage Information
- Shipping Data
- Basic Specimen Data
- Specimen Labels
- Historical Specimen Usage
- popgen clinical data**
- popgen control subject data
- popgen subject data

**3. Drag and Drop Variables**

- COLLECTION\_ID
- SUBJECT\_ID
- TEMPERATURE\_ON\_ADMISSION\_C
- BP\_SYSTOLIC\_ON\_ADMISSION**
- BP\_DIASTOLIC\_ON\_ADMISSION
- DAYS\_SINCE\_ONSET\_OF\_FEVER
- DATE\_OF\_FIRST\_RIBAVIRIN\_ADMIN
- ANITMALARIALS\_SINCE\_ONSET
- ANTIDIARRHOEALS\_SINCE\_ONSET

**4. Apply Filter**

material>>spec\_macro\_data

equals

**Records: 225**

Specimen ID	creation_date>>spec..._date	initial_volume>>spec..._volume	material>>spec_macro..._material	BP_SYSTOLIC_ON_ADMI..._bp_systolic	BP_DIASTOLIC_ON_ADMI..._bp_diastolic	DAYS_SINCE_ONSET_O..._days_since_onset
SM-03O2H	2012-01-23 06:08 P...	700	Plasma	140	90	7
SM-03X8U	2012-04-04 02:28 P...	700	Plasma	160	90	23
SM-07J7	2012-01-23 12:57 P...	1000	Plasma			
SM-08I70	2012-03-29 10:08...	700	Plasma	110	40	4
SM-0CYH1	2012-02-10 01:47 P...	700	Plasma	00	00	14
SM-0H254	2012-02-10 01:47 P...	1000	Plasma	140	100	6
SM-OHL70	2012-03-09 02:07 P...	900	Plasma	100	64	3
SM-0YJAN	2012-02-10 01:49 P...	700	Plasma	110	70	14
SM-10BP8	2012-02-09 06:04 P...	700	Plasma	160	90	10
SM-13UI2	2012-02-10 02:05 P...	800	Plasma	100	60	1
SM-15UN7	2012-04-04 02:40 P...	700	Plasma	110	70	12
SM-182VC	2012-02-10 02:06 P...	1000	Plasma	150	110	7
SM-18GZ2	2012-02-16 04:07 P...	700	Plasma	120	90	7

**Query History**

```
INDEX: Specimen ID
ADD VARIABLES: creation_date>>spec_macro_data ; initial_volume>>spec_macro_data ; material>>spec_macro_data
FILTER--> Column: material>>spec_macro_data , equals ; Plasma
ADD VARIABLES: BP_SYSTOLIC_ON_ADMISSION>>popgen_clinical_data ; BP_DIASTOLIC_ON_ADMISSION>>popgen_clinical_data
```

**My Queries**

**Buttons:** Save Query, Save Data Changes, Import ID List, Download, Delete Query

### Building a Query

**Tip:** Revisit the chapter on data structures in epiSampler. The VisualQuery Builder can traverse the data structure from the bottom up, but not the other way. In other words, if you select Specimen ID as your index, you will be able to access data from all the levels: specimen, collection and subject. If you select Collection ID as your table index, you will only have access to collection and subject- level data.

**Step 1)** Select the index for the table you wish to build from the left-most list and drag it into the table.

**Step 2)** Tables from which data is accessible are displayed in the second list. Navigate through the various tables to find the variables you wish to include in your query. Available variables are displayed in the third list. Select a table of interest by clicking on it.

**Step 3)** Select the variables of interest. You can select a range by selecting the first variable in the range, then while holding down the shift key, select the last variable of interest. To select multiple, non-consecutive variables, hold down the control key while selecting variables from the list. Drag the selected variables into the table.

Continue with steps 2 and 3 to add additional variables from multiple tables to the query table.

### **Filtering**

To apply a filter, select the column you wish to filter by clicking on a value in the column. Select the filter type from the dropdown. If the filter requires a parameter, select a value from the 'filter by' list.

### **Stepping Back and Changing a Query**

You can back up to any step in the query by clicking on the step in the Query History at the bottom of the VisualQuery Builder. To delete a step, right click on it in the history, and select Delete from the popup window.

### **Starting Over**

You can start over by dragging an index (either Specimen ID, Collection ID or Subject ID) from the first list into the table. This will erase and restart the query builder.

### **Saving a Query**

Saved queries are not static data tables. Selecting a saved query from the list of queries will run the same set of query instructions, but will load the most up-to-date data. Saved queries are only visible to the user who created and saved the query.

Save a data query by pressing the 'Save Query' button; you will be prompted to give the query a name. Saved queries appear in the saved query list on the bottom right of the VisualQuery builder.

### **Deleting a Query**

Select the saved query from the query list you wish to delete and press 'Delete Query'.

### **Editing Data**

Data can be edited here, as elsewhere, by changing the data value directly in the table. To commit your changes to the database press 'Save Changes'. You will be prompted to confirm the data changes.

### **Finding Data for a List of Specimens/Collections/Subjects**

You may already have a list of identifiers in excel or another spreadsheet program for which you would like to find additional data. You can import the list by pressing the 'Import ID List' button. Once the list has been loaded to the table, you can continue to add variables to the query by following steps 2 and 3 above.

## **Exporting Data**

You can export the contents of the query table to a csv file by pressing 'Export Data'. Make sure to give the file a name ending in .csv and to select a folder in which to store the file.

## **4.9 Logs and Records**

epiSampler keeps detailed logs of most data transactions. The creation date, and user id of the creator of most records is held within each row of data. Additionally, the following logs keep track of additional activities and can all be viewed and exported using the Database Table Viewer

### **Data Change Log**

The data change log keeps a record of every data value change. The log records the change date, the location of the data point by table and column name, the user id of the editor as well as the prior and new values.

### **Data Export Log**

epiSampler is a closed system in that data is accessible, editable and able to be entered only by authenticated users. epiSampler data would be of little use to researchers if it could not be removed from epiSampler for use in other analytics programs. Data is exported from epiSampler in a comma-delimited format (.csv files). The data export log records the date, user id and variables accessed each time data is exported.

### **Data Removal Log**

If data must be permanently removed from epiSampler, whether because it was incorrect, or a subject withdrew from your study, a record of the deletion is made in the data deletion log. The date, table, variable and user-id are recorded in the log, however the underlying data is not stored. The only way to restore a deleted record is to re-enter it.

### **Shipments**

A record of all shipments is recorded in the shipments log. The log records the shipping lab, recipient, shipment date, shipping status and details the CryoBoxes included in the shipment.

## Appendix 1

### epiSampler Default Data Tables

Table Nickname	epiSampler Table Name	Editable	Columns
Basic Specimen Data	spec_macro_data	Yes	SPECIMEN_D, TYPE, PARENT_ID, COLLECTON_ID, CREATION_DATE, INITIAL_VOLUME, MATERIAL, NOTES, USER_ID, VOL_UNITS
Sample Kits	sample_kits	No	SPECIMEN_ID, COLLECTION_ID, MATERIAL, COLLECTION_NAME,KIT_NUMBER
Current Sample Storage	sample_storage	Yes	SPECIMEN_ID, CRYOBOX, WELL, LOCATION,STORAGE_DATE, CURRENT_VOLUME, USER_ID
Specimen Labels	specimen_barcodes	No	SPECIMEN_ID, MAIN_TITLE , SUBTITLE, MATERIAL, CREATION_DATE
Shipments	shpiments	Yes	SHIPMENT_NAME, CRYOBOXES, USER_ID, SHIPPER, RECIPIENT, SHIPMENT_STATUS, NOTE
Data Change Log	data_change_log	No	OBJECT ID, SYSTEM_RECORD_ID, TABLE, VARIABLE, PREV_VALUE, NEW_VALUE, USER_ID, TIMESTAMP
Data Export Log	data_export_log	No	USER_ID, TIMESTAMP, SYSTEM, VARIABLES
Data Deletion Log	data_deletion_log	No	RECORD_TYPE, RECORD_ID, USER, TIMESTAMP