

Role of Packaging Technology in Cell & gene Therapy

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Received date: December 29, 2025; **Accepted date:** January 14, 2026; **Published date:** January 30, 2026

Citation: Anupam Chanda, (2026), Role of Packaging Technology in Cell & gene Therapy, *J, Biotechnology and Bioprocessing*, 7(1); DOI:10.31579/2766-2314/176

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Packaging technology is crucial in cell and gene therapy (CGT) for ensuring the safety, viability, and efficacy of complex biological products from manufacturing to patient delivery, primarily by maintaining strict cold chain (cryogenic) conditions (e.g., liquid nitrogen), ensuring sterility, preventing contamination, allowing for precise tracking (smart packaging), and meeting stringent regulations for these personalized, often hazardous materials. It protects against extreme temperatures, mechanical shock, and gas ingress (like CO₂), while enabling complex logistics and supporting scalability for advanced therapies.

Key Roles of Packaging Technology:

1. Temperature Control (Cold Chain):

- **Cryogenic Protection:** Critical for many therapies, requiring packaging that withstands ultra-low temperatures (e.g., -130°C to -196°C) without degradation, using liquid nitrogen and specialized insulation.
- **Hypothermic Storage:** Maintains refrigerated conditions (2-8°C) for other cell products using gel packs or dry ice.

2. Product Integrity & Safety:

- **Sterility & Purity:** Primary packaging must be inert, prevent contamination (particulates, leachables/extractables), and maintain closure integrity, often requiring closed-system designs.
- **Mechanical Protection:** Withstands vibrations, shocks, and pressure changes during global transport.
- **Gas Barrier:** Prevents ingress of CO₂ and other gases that could harm cells.

3. Logistics & Supply Chain Management:

- **Traceability:** Smart packaging with sensors monitors temperature, location, shock, and orientation in real-time, alerting stakeholders to deviations.
- **Labeling & Tracking:** Ensures correct identity and chain of custody, crucial for personalized medicine.
- **Scalability:** Solutions must support rapid growth from clinical trials to commercial scale.

4. Regulatory Compliance:

- **Hazardous Materials:** Packaging must meet strict FDA, UN, and DOT regulations for hazardous materials (e.g., liquid nitrogen).
- **Validation:** Comprehensive testing (thermal, mechanical) is required to prove the system maintains quality throughout its lifecycle.

5. Usability & Efficiency:

- **Single-Use Systems:** Simplify operations, reduce cleaning validation, and speed up delivery.
- **Patient-Ready Solutions:** Streamlined designs allow for direct use in clinical settings, simplifying administration.

In essence, packaging is no longer just a container; it's an integral part of the therapeutic system, safeguarding the product's complex biological nature throughout its challenging journey to the patient.







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DOI:10.31579/2766-2314/176

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