

## USAMRICD SUSPECTED CWA EXPOSURE SAMPLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Consultation/Testing Contact

	Phone Numbers	Address
Chemical Casual Care Division (CCCD):	(410) 436-2230	USAMRICD
USAMRICD Command Office:	(410) 436-3276	ATTN: Clinical Laboratory
After Hours Duty Phone:	(410) 436-6822	8350 Ricketts Point Road
For Medical Advice:	1-833-238-7756 ref "CCCD"	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5400

NIPR Email: [usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.list.mricd-consultation@health.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.list.mricd-consultation@health.mil)

Website: <https://usamricd.health.mil/consult/Clinical-Laboratory>

### SPECIMEN COLLECTION, PACKAGING, AND SHIPPING GUIDELINES

No matter what chemical weapon exposure is suspected, **both plasma and urine should be collected** and sent to USAMRICD for testing. **Other fluids may be collected as deemed appropriate** by local protocol or by consultation with USAMRICD or a subject matter expert. Not all testing capabilities to confirm exposure and provide attribution are fully validated for clinical records, but many diagnostic tests are utilized to be thorough and give robust, reliable results.

Note: **Other, non-ideal, sample conditions will also be accepted** by the laboratory including, but not limited to, unseparated blood samples, samples collected with a different anticoagulant, and samples stored at refrigerated temperatures.

#### A. Sample collection:

1. Patient preparation. Collection of blood samples prior to administration of antidote is preferable but is not required. Samples should be collected as soon after suspected exposure as possible. No other patient preparation is required. Do not delay clinically indicated antidote administration to obtain samples.
2. For every tube used to contain a specimen, use a minimum of two unique patient identifiers to properly identify the patient prior to collection, and throughout sample collection and processing. Specimen labels **must** include date and time of collection. Example patient identifiers are:
  - a. The patient's full name (first and last, middle initial if available).
  - b. The patient's date of birth.
  - c. The patient's social security number or DoDID number.
3. Collect samples according to local protocol, or following the USAMRICD Detailed Specimen Collection Job Aid.
  - a. Blood samples are preferably collected in dark green top tubes (sodium heparin), and a total of 20 mL of blood should be collected per instance of specimen collection, as per local protocol or in consultation with USAMRICD.
  - b. Urine samples should have at least 20 mL collected per instance of specimen collection, as per local protocol or in consultation with USAMRICD.

- c. Other fluids (as necessary) should have at least 10 mL collected per instance of specimen collection, as per local protocol or in consultation with USAMRICD.
4. As needed, decontaminate the exterior of specimen containers. Ensure label remains legible, or if damaged, replace with a new label including all identifiers listed above.
5. Specimen processing.
  - a. Centrifuge blood per local protocol or USAMRICD Detailed Specimen Collection and Submission job aid. Aliquot plasma to a new tube as soon as possible after collection, ideally within 2 hours, and including all label information such as identifiers and date and time of collection.
  - b. Samples should be aliquoted and frozen at -80 °C (preferred) or -20 °C.
6. Complete DD Form 1911 Materiel Courier Receipt and USAMRICD Clinical Laboratory Test Requisition Forms.
7. Place specimen inside leak-proof plastic zip top bag and package samples with absorbent material.
8. Include the completed USAMRICD Test Requisition form in the package, inside a leak-proof plastic zip top bag to prevent damage from liquid.
9. Place the DD Form 1911 in the outside pocket with the shipping label. Ship samples per courier (e.g., FEDEX, DHL, UPS) or military guidelines (established based on mission critical details and transport options).
  - a. For courier guidance, please refer to this URL: <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/shipping/how-to-ship-clinical-samples.html>
  - b. For military transport guidance, please contact USAMRICD Consultation via phone/NIPR to discuss.
10. Send a message confirming package was sent, including any tracking information, to the following email address:

usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.list.mricd-consultation@health.mil