

**U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE CLINICAL LABORATORY**

**8350 RICKETTS POINT ROAD, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5400**

**Consultation/Testing Contact: 410-652-4785 or 410-652-2745**

**NIPR: [usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.mbx.mricd-consultation@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.mbx.mricd-consultation@mail.mil)**

<https://usamricd.amedd.army.mil>

**PACKAGING AND SHIPPING CWA EXPOSURE SAMPLE GUIDELINES**

SHIP TO: USAMRICD

Attn: CLINICAL LABORATORY

8350 Ricketts Point Road

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5400

**Nerve Agent:**

Sample: Blood- anticoagulated with heparin, spun down  
Volume- 10.0 ml plasma (minimum preferred)  
Processing- freeze

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**Blister Agent:**

Sample: Urine in plastic  
Volume- at least 30 ml  
Processing- freeze

**Documentation:**

US Army MRICD Clinical Laboratory Testing Request Order Form

DD Form 1911 Material Courier Receipt

Follow Sample Submission Guidelines

For CONUS/OCONUS shipments coming via commercial transport (i.e., FEDEX), please refer to [http://www.fedex.com/us/packaging/guides/Clinical\\_fxcom.pdf](http://www.fedex.com/us/packaging/guides/Clinical_fxcom.pdf) for general and specific packaging requirements for clinical samples.

For military shipments please contact MRICD Consultation via phone/NIPR to discuss

**A. Sample collection :**

1. Preferred sample types and minimum volumes are listed in the MRICD clinical test catalog.
2. 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.
3. Use a minimum of two unique patient identifiers (e.g., name, date of birth, DoD ID) to properly identify the patient prior to collection, and throughout sample collection and processing.
4. Collect samples according to local protocol, following the instructions on the MRICD Suspected CWA Exposure Sample Submission Guidelines.
5. Label sample container.
  - a. Specimen label must include at least two patient identifiers. Examples include:
    1. The patient's full name (first and last, middle initial if available)
    2. The patient's date of birth
    3. The patient's social security number or DoD ID number
  - b. Specimen label must include date and time of collection.
  - c.
6. 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.
7. Specimen processing:
  - a. Centrifuge blood per local protocol. Aliquot plasma to a new tube as soon as possible after collection, ideally within 2 hours.
  - b. Samples should be aliquoted and frozen.
8. Complete DD 1911 form and USAMRICD Clinical Laboratory Testing Request Order form.
9. Place specimen inside leak-proof plastic zip top bag.
10. Package samples with absorbent material to protect the specimen collection vessels from breakage during shipment.
11. Include the completed request form in the package, in a plastic enclosure to prevent damage from liquid.

12. Place the DD Form 1911 in the outside pocket with the shipping label.
13. Samples will be shipped per courier guidelines (e.g., FEDEX) or military guidelines (established based on mission critical details and transport options)