

CHEMICAL THREAT SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND LABELING GUIDE
COLLECTED FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL AGENTS

A. COLLECTION

Please collect the following specimens from each person who may have been exposed:

WHOLE BLOOD (Adults only)		
<p>Purple-top (EDTA) tubes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vacuum-fill only (unopened), non-gel 2. Minimum of 12 mL 3. Use Three 4-mL or larger; collect a fourth tube if using 3-mL tubes 4. Use indelible ink to mark each purple-top tube of blood <i>in the order collected</i> (e.g., # 1, # 2, # 3 [and # 4, if using 3-mL tubes]) 5. Refrigerate; do not freeze 	<p>Green- or gray-top tube</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vacuum-fill only (unopened), non-gel 2. One 3-mL or larger 3. Allow the tube to fill to its stated capacity 4. Refrigerate: do not freeze 	<p>Blanks</p> <p>For each lot number of tubes used, provide the following for measuring background contamination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two (2) empty, unopened purple-top tubes 2. Two (2) empty, unopened green- or gray-top tubes

URINE	
<p>Screw-cap plastic container (urine cup)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect at least 25-50 mL from potentially exposed adults and children 2. Do not overfill 3. Freeze specimen as soon as possible (-70°C / dry ice preferred) 4. If other than “clean catch”, note method of collection on the specimen cup (e.g., obtained by catheterization) 	<p>Blanks</p> <p>For each lot number of urine cups used, provide the following for measuring background contamination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two (2) empty, unopened urine cups

B. LABELING

1. Follow your facility’s procedures for proper specimen labeling.
2. In addition to unique patient identifiers (e.g., medical records number, specimen identification number) labels should convey the collector’s initials, date and time of collection so that law enforcement officials may trace the specimen to the collector should investigations lead to legal action, and the collector has to testify that he or she collected the specimen.
3. If you use bar-coded labels, place the labels so that when the collection containers are upright, the bar code looks like a ladder.
4. Maintain a list of names with corresponding specimen identification numbers at the collection site so that results can be reported to patients.
5. Please record additional data for use in the interpretation of results on the *Chemical Exposure Clinical Specimen Submission Form*; i.e., time of potential exposure, method of urine collection if other than “clean-catch”, indication if sample was collected post-mortem, and antidotes administered prior to sample collection.