

February 11, 2022

Across South Dakota, 320 overdoses in emergency departments were reported to the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) between January and February of 2021. While the South Dakota Public Health Lab (SDPHL) does blood toxicology for law enforcement agencies and coroners, there are non-fatal overdoses that occur from opioids and/or illicit drug misuse that go untested.

As part of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program, SD DOH is collaborating with South Dakota hospitals to track the public health risk of illicit drug supply through non-fatal overdose toxicology testing performed by the SDPHL. The CMO of your hospital has agreed to have your hospital participate in this pilot program, by submitting de-identified blood samples from non-fatal overdose patients to the SDPHL for drug testing.

These testing results are important for public health surveillance and for gathering illicit drug market information for hospitals, the SD DOH, and the CDC to help understand drug overdose-related morbidity and mortality in South Dakota residents.

Your hospital will receive prepared kits that contain two grey top blood collection tubes. Kits will be returned to the SDPHL via courier and shipping instructions are included with the kits. Additionally, each kit contains packaging materials and instructions for proper shipping. Of particular importance to the program, the collection instructions stress that these samples are de-identified with no name anywhere on the tube. These samples will only be used for surveillance and not law enforcement purposes.

Effective surveillance can only be achieved with emergency department staff participation in submitting specimens if an overdose is suspected. Enclosed is a copy of the submission form for this program and FAQ form. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Project Coordinator, Ben Estabrook at Ben.Estabrook@state.sd.us or call 605.773-3368.

Sincerely,

Joan Adam
Interim Secretary of Health

Overdose Collection Instructions

Not for Law Enforcement use – SDPHL and CDC surveillance purposes only.

1. Retrieve a DOH provided kit containing 2 large grey top tubes and a submission form.
2. Fill **at least one large grey** tube with a minimum of 8 CC's. Invert tube several times.
 - If no kit is available, fill **two-three** 4 mL EDTA **lavender** tubes with a minimum of 8 CC's. Invert tubes several times.
3. Fill out the attached submission form.
4. Individual's name **CANNOT** be on the submission form and **CANNOT** be on specimen containers. This is for surveillance purposes only. Results will **NOT** be sent back.
5. Place specimen and submission form in provided container and send via SDPHL courier. Only one individual's specimen(s) per container.

*If no kit is available, place blood tubes in biohazard bags and package in a sturdy box. Send via the SDPHL **courier** to South Dakota Public Health Laboratory, ATTN Forensics.*

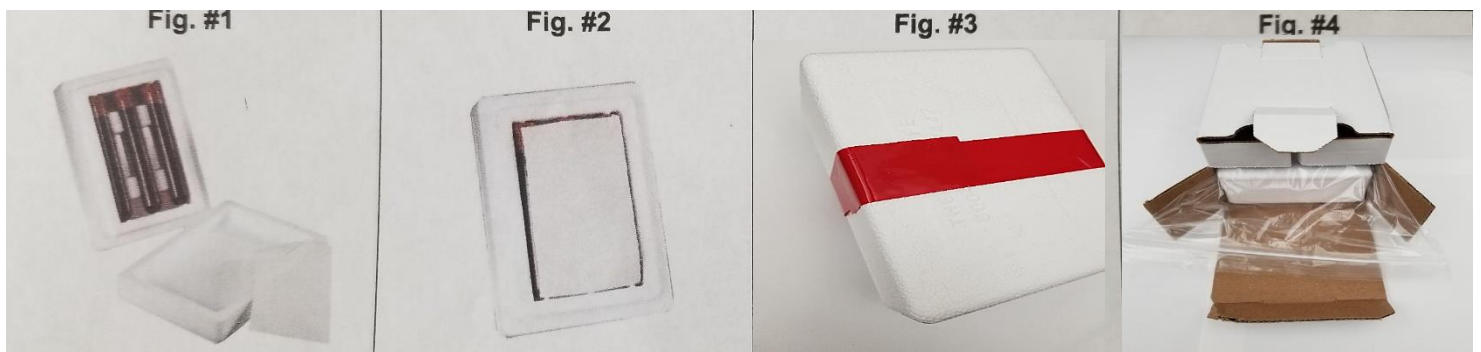


Figure #1: Place blood tubes in foam mailer.

Figure #2: Place absorbent sheet inside.

Figure #3: Close lid and wrap the provided strip of tape around the mailer.

Figure #4: Place the foam mailer into the plastic bag. Place into the carton with paperwork and close the flaps.

To request more kits, contact the Forensic Section at 605-773-3368.

Overdose Surveillance Project Q & A

- 1. Is a chain of custody form necessary?** No. These samples are for surveillance only and not for law enforcement. We would like only deidentified samples submitted to the PHL. Demographic data collected is only used for statistical purposes.
- 2. Is a consent form necessary?** No. A consent form is not needed because the samples will be deidentified, and no seals will be applied nor chain of custody form used. The submission form will only have demographic data relevant for statistical use, not for identifying an individual patient.
- 3. What is the case definition for suspected overdose?** A non-fatal overdose that may or may not have required the administration of Naloxone.
- 4. Will collection kits be provided?** Yes - kits will contain two grey top blood collection tubes, submission form, instructions, return label and shipping container.



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Please complete the following patient information

Sex: Male / Female

Age: 0-14 years / 15-24 years / 25-34 years

35-54 years / 55-64 years / 65-74 years / 75+ years

Suspected Drug(s): _____

Name of Hospital: _____

Sample Collection Month: _____

Year: _____

Fatality? Y N Unknown

Comments:

Make sure the individual's name is **NOT** on the submission form and **NOT** on specimen containers.