

**Expression of Interest (EOI) for  
Biological sample transport for HIV-1 Viral load testing under the National AIDS  
Control Program (NACP)  
Profile of Organization and capability  
Format for information related to Expression of Interest**

The \_\_\_\_\_ State AIDS Control Society is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 which receives fund from Govt. of India under Domestic Budgetary Support for implementation of National AIDS Control Programs (NACP) in the State of Haryana

Expression of Interest are invited from eligible service providers for sample transport for HIV-1 Viral load testing under the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) in the state of Haryana. The service provider services related to biological specimen packaging and transportation from the designated ART center (sample collection site) and their delivery to the testing laboratories as per the client approved linkage plan and timelines.

**Objective:**

To purchase services for sample transportation of biological samples across the country.

This document defines the technical and operational requirements of packaging and transportation of biological samples i.e. plasma and Dried Blood Spot (DBS) for HIV-1 viral load test under the national program

**Eligibility & Assessment Criteria:**

- The service provider's capacity of having provisions for temperature and humidity-controlled logistics for plasma and DBS samples.
- The capability of the service provider in terms of supply chain management of materials (consumables and equipment) required for biological specimen packaging and transportation, provision of temperature and humidity-controlled transportation and deployment of competent personnel for carrying out the work.
- The capacity in terms of adequate physical infrastructure, robust processes, air & land connectivity network, appropriate tools to capture and share information on sample movement and a qualified/trained team that is experienced in handling large projects involving vast geographies and scale.
- Years of experience and prior work experience of providing similar services.

**Requirements:**

The EOI should be sent along with a capability statement including the profile of the organization relevant technical and geographical coverage along with the financial turnover for the last 3 financial years.

Aformat is shared below for providing the Capability statement. Any EOI with inadequate information, those which do not meet the abovecriteria, or those received after the closing date will not be short listed.

EOI should be as concise and focused as possible to give evidence of the above requirements including the capability statement and organization profiles.

They should be mailed to the Project Director, Haryana State AIDS Control Society to arrive not later than 5 p.m. on DATE \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For Further Information**

For further information, interested bidders are requested to visit the SACS website: <https://www.haryanasacs.in>. Or Contact the e-mail id: haryanasacs@gmail.comTele - XXXXX

<b>Format for providing the Capability statement</b>
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#### **Profile of Organization and capability: Format for information related to Expression of Interest**

##### **Section A: Basic Information**

1. Name of the Agency/Supplier:
2. Postal Address:
3. Telephone:
4. Telex Fax Email
5. Legal status: Private ( ) Society ( ) Company ( ) Others (specify)
6. Registration Details: Registered on (Date)
7. Contact person:
8. Designation:

##### **Section B: Organizational Background**

9. Assets/Infrastructure of the agency/supplier



Category	Worth in rupees (eg. Land, building)

10 a. Please provide details, regarding the annual budget of your agency/supplier and attach the detailed audited statement for 3 years for NGOs and 1 year for CBO.

Year	Source of Funding	Amount (in Rs.)	List of activities	Activities similar to the TOR/Scope of Work	Geographical area of activities as mentioned in column no. 5
1	2	3	4	5	6

10. b.: Whether blacklisted/debarred by any agency (both government, private or World Bank/ UN bodies) in the past? If yes, provide details in an Affidavit.

10. c.: Whether any staff or board member of your agency is part of any NACO/SACS/TSU staffs currently or in the past. Please provide the above information in the form of an Affidavit.

### Section C: Current key activities by the agency

11. Geographical location of Work

12. Please provide basic information on the key projects carried out by your agency since the last three years/one year (as applicable) (5 lines for each subject – attach separately) related to Biological sample transport for HIV-1 Viral load testing.

13. A brief write up on the activities of the agency currently runs (no more than two pages)

### Section D: Documents Required

14. Copies of the following documents need to be provided with self-attestation by competent authority of the organisation

- Relevant registration of the agency

- Activity Report/Annual report (last 3years)
- Annual Audit Report last 3years
- Income Tax Return Document: (last 3years)
- Copy of the PAN Card
- Copies of the affidavit as required above
- Identification document of Authorized signatory submitting EoI (Govt. photo ID with address)
- Documents related to minimum financial turn over criteria (one crore)

15. Name of the person who filled this form:

Designation:

Address (with PIN Code):

Email address:

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## Technical requirements for Operational criteria for Pan-India temperature-controlled logistics

### Biological sample transport for HIV-1 Viral load testing under the National AIDS Control Program (NACP)

#### Operational criteria for Pan-India temperature-controlled logistics

##### 1. Background:

In its pursuit to implement the program effectively, NACO has up-scaled HIV-1 Viral Load testing for routine monitoring of patients on ART across the country. Viral load test provides early and accurate indication of treatment failure and the consequent need to switch to second-line drugs. It also improves the clinical outcomes as second-line ART is initiated earlier and thus reducing the accumulation of drug resistance mutations.

There are around --- PLHIVs receiving treatment at

\_\_\_\_\_ - ARTC and \_\_\_\_\_ FIART centers (Refer State wise ARTCs - Annexure A). All patients on ART are monitored through HIV-1 Viral Load testing to assess the response to treatment. Those with higher HIV-1 Viral Load (>1000 Copies/ml) are evaluated for treatment failure in order to consider them for next line of Antiretroviral Treatment.

Currently, NACO is implementing routine HIV-1 Viral Load testing through 64 Viral Load Testing Centers in government-run facilities across the country (State wise VL lab list Refer Annexures B).

HIV-1 VL test using plasma obtained from EDTA tubes is the most preferred sample type. Plasma sample requires strict specimen storage conditions as it is stable for only five days from the time of sample collection, at 2-8 °C. The plasma sample should be transported to the testing laboratory within a stipulated time. In situations where cold-chain availability between health facilities and testing sites is not feasible, like difficult terrains and far flung-areas which create barriers to VL services, DBS (Dried Blood Spot) specimen may be collected which is stable for 12 weeks at ambient temperature and controlled humidity conditions.

##### 2. Scope of Services:

The scope of work includes biological specimen packaging and transportation from the designated ART center (sample collection site) and their delivery to the testing laboratories as per the client approved linkage plan and timelines. The service provider should have provisions for temperature and humidity-controlled Pan-India logistics for plasma and DBS samples. (Refer Annexure C).

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The responsibilities of the service provider extend from supply chain management of materials (consumables and equipment) required for biological specimen packaging and transportation, provision of temperature and humidity-controlled transportation and deployment of competent personnel for carrying out the work.

The service provider must have adequate physical infrastructure, robust processes, air & land connectivity network, appropriate tools to capture and share information on sample movement and a qualified/trained team that is experienced in handling large projects involving vast geographies and scale.

### 3. Operational Requirements for shipment of biological samples for HIV-1 VL test

- a. The sample handling as per temperature and humidity requirements should be compliant with the National HIV-1 Viral Load guidelines
- b. **Material to be transported:** Biological sample (Plasma & DBS)
- c. **Category of material:** Biological substance Category B-UN3373
- d. **Duration of sample transportation:**
  - i. Plasma: delivery of samples to the testing lab at the earliest however not later than 5 days of sample collection
  - ii. DBS: delivery of samples to the testing lab at the earliest, however not later than 10 days of sample collection maintaining the requirements for humidity control
- e. **Temperature maintenance during sample transportation:**
  - i. Plasma: cold chain transport (2-8 °C)
  - ii. DBS: ambient temperature and controlled humidity
- f. **Packaging requirement:** The Service Provider should adhere to the national HIV-1 VL guidelines (Refer: NACO website) and applicable national and international guidelines such as Triple layer, UN-3373 packaging for infectious agent and WHO guidelines for safe transportation of material.
- g. **Sample pick up site:** Sample collection sites identified by the client, refer Annexure A.
- h. **Sample delivery site:** Viral load Labs, refer Annexure B.
- i. **Sample referral and linkage patterns:** the client has defined the linkage patterns of sample collection sites with the viral load labs and frequency of pick up, refer Annexure C
- j. **Frequency of sample pick up:** As defined in the Annexure C
- k. **The temperature data logger** should be of the temperature range -10°C to 40°C and USFDA / CE and BIS approved. The service provider is required to provide technical specifications (and approval status as above) of temperature data loggers to be used during transportation of samples.
- l. All consumables and equipment required for specimen packaging and transportation should be provided by the Service Provider.



- m. The safe storage of all the consumables (including the personal protective equipment) and equipment required for above activities is the responsibility of the service provider.
- n. The management of all Bio Medical Waste generated during this activity, in compliance to the biomedical waste management rules 2016, is the responsibility of the service provider.

#### **4. Technical Requirements for shipment of biological samples for HIV-1 VL test**

- a. The Service Provider should have adequate experience and expertise to carry out packaging and transportation of plasma and DBS samples.
- b. The Service Provider should engage qualified, trained and competent staff for sample packaging and transportation
- c. The concerned nodal person of the sample collection site must be intimated through email/SMS before pickup person reaches sample collection site for pickup. The samples should not be delivered during non-working hours, weekends or on holidays unless prior arrangement with the receiving laboratory has been made.
- d. The service provider must have all necessary licenses and approvals for the work undertaken
- e. The service provider should have SOP for environment-friendly disposal mechanism of used packaging boxes & other materials used in logistics, adhering to the local/State guidelines and laws
- f. An online system of specimen tracking must be made available

##### **A. Packaging of plasma samples**

- a. Use validated Transport boxes to maintain 2-8-degree C during the duration of shipment.
- b. It is desirable that the service provider has a network of multiple cold-rooms and freezers, for conditioning and decontamination of gel-packs, box preparation and for Gel-pack replenishment. The Gel-packs to be appropriately conditioned and decontaminated before usage.

##### **B. Transport of Plasma samples**



- a. The samples should be transported in temperature ranges between 2- 8 °C within five days of collection.
- b. The documentation required for sample transportation is the responsibility of the service provider. A copy of documentation should also be provided to the in-charge of the sample collection site for record.
- c. The data logger/temperature indicators should be provided in each transportation box for temperature monitoring during sample transportation.
- d. In-transit status and key milestones shall be updated and made available by the Service Provider, on the real-time basis.
- e. Service Provider shall have Pan-India logistic network connectivity.
- f. Service Provider shall ensure delivery of temperature-controlled shipments within five days of sample collection.
- g. At the time of the delivery of the samples to the lab, the record of data logger/temperature indicator should be accessible to the lab and at the national level.
- h. If there is change in the approved linkage plan due to reasons such as non-functional lab, etc., a revised connectivity plan will be provided by the client on need basis.
- i. The samples should not be packaged and transported or delivered during non-working hours, weekends or on holidays unless prior arrangement with the receiving laboratory has been made.
- j. The Service provider is responsible for end to end monitoring of temperature during sample transportation.

### **C. Packaging for DBS specimens**

- a. The zip-lock bag containing the DBS cards from the sample collection site should be packed inside a water proof padded envelope.
- b. Place the Test Requisition form (TRF), and the completed sample transportation log in the envelope.
- c. Label the envelope with VL lab address and sender's address with contact details.
- d. Seal the envelope and label envelop with Biohazard label.

### **D. Transport of DBS specimen**

- a. The envelope containing the DBS cards should be transported to the linked viral load lab at ambient temperature and humidity-controlled conditions (with humidity indicator and desiccant).
- b. The consignment should reach the VL lab not later than ten days of sample collection.



## 5. Monitoring and evaluation

The Service Provider will submit a monthly report on the following performance indicators:

- a. Number of samples packaged and transported per month. Cumulative and facility wise disaggregated data for DBS and plasma sample
- b. Number of shipments per month. Cumulative and facility wise disaggregated data for DBS and plasma
- c. Average Turnaround Time from sample packaging and transportation to delivery at VL lab: Cumulative and facility wise disaggregated data for DBS and plasma
- d. Number of shipments that missed the Turnaround Time. Cumulative and facility wise disaggregated data for DBS and plasma
- e. Number of shipments not meeting the temperature requirements during plasma transportation. Cumulative and facility wise disaggregated data

The service provider must periodically monitor (internal audit) all the activities. This should be at least once in a year but at the start of operations more frequent internal audits must be done. The internal audit report with CAPA should be made available to the client on request. The client will have a system of scheduled and unannounced facility visits to check and verify the compliance to the requirements of the contract.

## 6. List of Annexures

1. Annexure A: List of sample collection sites with PLHIV Load
2. Annexure B: List of viral load Testing Centers
3. Annexure C: Linkage plan of sample collection sites with the VL lab, sample type and frequency of sample pick-up

**Annexure A, B and C need to be provided by state as per their list of ARTCs, VL labs and linkages plan**

## Annexure A

## List of sample collection sites in Govt. Health Facilities with PLHIV Load

S. No.	District	Name of the ART Centre	Patient Load as per MPR Jan 2025
1	Rohtak	ARTC PGIMS, Rohtak	4262
2	Ambala	FIARTC Poly Clinic, Ambala	3419
3	Hisar	ARTC Civil Hospital, Hisar	3295
4	Sirsa	FIARTC Civil Hospital, Sirsa	3118
5	Faridabad	ARTC ESI Hospital, Faridabad	2975
6	Panipat	ARTC Civil Hospital Panipat	2451
7	Jind	FIARTC Civil Hospital, Jind	2394
8	Kaithal	ARTC Civil Hospital, Kaithal	2275
9	Sonipat	FIARTC Civil Hospital, Sonipat	2212
10	Karnal	ARTC Civil Hospital, Karnal	1996
11	Bhiwani	FIARTC Civil Hospital, Bhiwani	1846
12	Gurugram	ARTC Civil Hospital, Gurugram	1801
13	Rewari	ARTC Civil Hospital, Rewari	1123
14	Kurukshetra	ARTC Civil Hospital, Kurukshetra	887
15	Jhajjar	ARTC Civil Hospital Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar	821
16	Panchkula	ARTC, Poly Clinic Panchkula	435
		Total	35310

## List of sample collection sites in Medical Colleges with PLHIV Load

1	Ambala	ARTC Medical College MMIMSR, Ambala	198
2	Hisar	ARTC MAMC, Agoha, Hisar	713
3	Mewat	ARTC Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati, Govt. Medical College, Mewat	401
4	Jhajjar	ARTC World College of Medical Sciences & Research & Hospital, Jhajjar	168
5	Faridabad	ART ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Faridabad	167
6	Sonipat	ARTC BPS Govt. Medical College for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat	108
7	Karnal	ARTC Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College (KCGMC), Karnal	90
8	Gurugram	ARTC SGT Medical College, Gurugram	43
9	Faridabad	ARTC Al-Falah School of Medical Science & Research Centre, Faridabad	28
10	Kurukshetra	ARTC Adesh Medical College & Hospital, Kurukshetra	10
11	Panipat	ARTC N.C. Medical College & Hospital,	8
		Total	1934

**Note :-** Rohtak and Panchkula are transporting samples themselves. Patient load may increase time to time in ART Centres as per new registrations.

ART Centre in 3 Medical Colleges may enrolled in the next FY 2025-26

- 1 Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Govt. Medical College Chhainsa, Faridabad
- 2 Mata Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amrita School of Medicine, Faridabad
- 3 M.M College of Medical Sciences & Research Sadopur, Ambala, Haryana

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## Annexure B

No.	List of Viral load Testing Centre
1	Microbiology Department PGIMS Rohtak
2	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi (IHBAS)
3	ART Centre PGIMER Chandigarh

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## Annexure C:

Linkage plan of sample collection sites with the VL lab, sample type and frequency of sample pick-up				
Sr. No.	Name of ART/ FIART Centre	Viral load Lab	Sample Type	Day of Sample Transportation
1	FIARTC Poly Clinic, Ambala, MMIMSR Mullana Medical College, Ambala	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	Biological sample (Plasma & DBS), Biological substance Category B-UN3373	Monday
2	ARTC Civil Hospital, Kaithal, Adesh Medical College, Kurukshetra	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	-do-	Tuesday
3	ARTC Civil Hospital Hisar, FIARTC Civil Hospital Jind MAMC Agroha Medical College Hisar	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	-do-	Wednesday
4	ARTC Civil Hospital Panipat, FI-ARTC Civil Hospital Sirsa & N.C Medical College, Panipat	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	-do-	Thursday
5	ARTC Civil Hospital Karnal, FIARTC Civil Hospital Bhiwani & KCGMC Karnal,	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	-do-	Friday
6	ARTC Civil Hospital Bahadurgarh (Jhajjar), & World Medical College, Jhajjar	Department of Microbiology, PGIMS Rohtak	-do-	Saturday
7	ARTC Civil Hospital, Gurugram, SGT Medical College Gurugram	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi (IHBAS)	-do-	Tuesday
8	ARTC Civil Hospital Faridabad, Al-Falah & ESIC MC Faridabad,	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi (IHBAS)	-do-	Wednesday
9	ARTC Civil Hospital Rewari, SHKM Medical College Mewat	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi (IHBAS)	-do-	Friday
10	FI-ARTC Civil Hospital Sonipat, BPS Medical college, Sonipat,	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi (IHBAS)	-do-	Saturday
11	ART, Poly Clinic Sanjeev Panchkula	ART Centre PGIMER Chandigarh	-do-	Monday

Note:- The days of sample collection and number of visits may be altered as per requirement

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## ART/FIARTCs In Govt. Facilities

Sr. No.	Name of ART Centre	Day of Sample Transportation	Week of Sample Collection		
1	Ambala	Monday	Ist Week	IIInd Week	IVth week
2	Kaithal	Tuesday	Ist Week	IIInd Week	IVth Week
3	Gurugram		Ist Week	IIIrd Week	
4	Kurukshetra		IIIrd Week		
5	Hisar	Wednesday	Ist Week	IIInd Week	IVth Week
6	Faridabad		Ist Week	IIIrd Week	
7	Jind		IIInd Week	IIIrd Week	IVth Week
8	Panipat	Thursday	IIInd Week	IVth Week	
9	Sirsa		IIInd Week	IIIrd Week	IVth Week
10	Karnal		IIInd Week	IVth Week	
11	Bhiwani	Friday	IIInd Week	IIIrd Week	IVth Week
12	Rewari		IIInd Week		IVth Week
13	Ambala		Ist Week	IIInd Week	IIIrd Week
14	Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar	Saturday	IVth Week		
15	Sonipat		Ist Week	IIIrd Week	

ARTCs in Medical Colleges			Number of Visits per month will be informed later as per the patient load
No.	Name	Sample Transportation Day	
1	Kalpana Chawla Govt. Medical College, Karnal	Friday	
2	World College of Medical Science, Jhajjar	Saturday	
3	M.M. Institute Of Medical Sciences & Research, Mullana, Ambala	Monday	
4	SGT University, Gurugram	Tuesday	
5	Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha Hisar	Wednesday	
6	ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Faridabad	Wednesday	
7	BPS Govt. Medical College for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat	Saturday	
8	Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati, Govt. Medical College, Nalhar Mewat	Friday	
9	Adesh Medical College & Hospital, Kurukshetra	Tuesday	
10	N.C. Medical College & Hospital, Panipat	Thursday	
11	Al-Falah School of Medical Science & Research Centre. Faridabad	Wednesday	

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3 more ART centres may be included in FY 25-26.