



# DEA TOX

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TOXICOLOGY TESTING PROGRAM

Contact: [DEATOX@DEA.GOV](mailto:DEATOX@DEA.GOV) or call Dr. Jordan Trecki (Pharmacologist) at 571-362-8362

[DEA TOX TOXICOLOGY TESTING PROGRAM \(usdoj.gov\)](https://www.usdoj.gov/dea_tox/index.html)

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/dea\\_tox/index.html](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/dea_tox/index.html)

In response to the ongoing novel synthetic drug abuse epidemic, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has initiated a contract with the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) whereby biological samples generated from drug overdose victims can be further analyzed for identification of these synthetic drugs. In many drug overdose cases, it can be difficult to identify novel synthetic drugs because routine forensic drug screens do not typically target such substances. We invite medical facilities and law enforcement agencies to contact our program if you encounter an overdose of a suspected synthetic drug and desire to have any leftover biological samples (blood preferred) analyzed further for such synthetic substances.

**Cost of Sample Analysis:** DEA will cover the full cost of testing the patient samples. However, the sender will only be responsible for paying for packing and shipping samples to UCSF.

- **Turn-around Time:** Results are expected within three weeks of receipt of the sample at UCSF except in rare occurrences when a novel substance is identified.

### DEA TOXICOLOGY TESTING PROGRAM (DEA TOX)

#### Sample Qualifications

The DEA TOX program is interested in patients thought to have ingested a synthetic drug, where the remainder of the initial drug screen has produced little or no viable options to explain the symptoms exhibited by the patient (alcohol and THC are exempted). Left-over unused biological samples may be approved for testing from a medical facility only. No personal samples will be accepted.

## How to Contact Us to Request Approval for Testing

Email [DEATOX@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:DEATOX@USDOJ.GOV) with a brief description of the case (including initial toxicology screen and history) and a request for testing. No samples will be approved without a brief clinical background.

If your request is approved by DEA, we will send instructions for packing and shipping your sample to UCSF.

## Reasons Your Sample Was Not Approved For Testing

The main reason for disapproval of a case would be the identification of substances including methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, LSD, PCP, or other commonly abused substances in a routine toxicology screening at your facility.

*This program's goal is to connect symptom causation to the abuse of newly emerging synthetic drugs (i.e. synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, fentanyl-related substances, other hallucinogens etc.).*

## Samples Approved For Testing Will Be Processed As Follows

### UCSF Clinical Toxicology and Environmental Biomonitoring Lab Protocol for Sample Collection and Shipping

–Ensure that you de-identify and label the sample with a numerical value, sex, date of birth or age, and the date and time the sample was collected in accordance with the labeling instructions (sent with shipping instructions).

–Keep a master list of the patients and the numerical values you allocated to each sample at your institution.

- A. Sample types to collect: Any left-over serum (preferred), plasma, whole blood, or urine.
- B. Minimum sample volume: 0.5 mL for serum or plasma; 1 mL for whole blood, 1 mL for urine.
- C. Sample Shipping:
  - 1. For serum, plasma, or urine please ship on dry ice using FEDEX or UPS ONLY.
  - 2. For whole blood, please spin down and remove plasma for shipping. If it cannot be spun, please ship whole blood on ice. Otherwise ship plasma collected as above.
  - 3. Prepare a manifest of the samples being shipped and include the manifest in the shipment.
  - 4. Please ship the samples OVERNIGHT SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY using the following address: ATTN: Roy Gerona UCSF Mt Zion Cancer Research Bldg, Rm S-271 2340 Sutter St San Francisco, CA 94115 Lab Tel #: 415-502-1446 Office Tel #: 415-476-6255 5.Please DO NOT SHIP on a Friday or Saturday.

Sample Labeling Format: Each sample should be properly labeled using the following format [1]190325-CA-94115-001-S1 - where 190325- Date of sample collection (YYMMDD) CA- State of

sample source 94115- ZIP Code of sample source 001-Patient number from source S1- Sample type and number for the sample type from the patient (use S for serum, P for plasma and WB for whole blood)

Sample Manifest: In a separate sheet of paper please provide the following and include in the shipment Sample Source: (Hospital Name/City/State/ZIP Code) Date: Contact Person: Contact Phone: Contact Email: List of Samples  
Sample ID Patient/ Decedent Sample Type (S, P or WB) Sample Collection Gender Age Date Hour NOTE: Please DO NOT include any patient/decedent identifier besides gender and age in the manifest.

Please affix the signature over printed name of the contact person at the bottom of the manifest.

Tracking: Once samples are shipped, email the tracking information to [DEATOX@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:DEATOX@USDOJ.GOV)  
Chain of Custody If needed, include a chain of custody form within the package. SAMPLE COLLECTION AND SHIPMENT PROTOCOL

If DEA agents, task force officers, diversion investigators in Montana can assist you with your overdose cases please contact the following supervisors:

Lee E. Herd, Group Supervisor  
Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS)  
Missoula Post of Duty (AOR Western half of Montana)  
Billings Resident Office  
Denver Field Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
2801 Great Northern Loop Suite #201  
Missoula, MT 59808  
Cell: 406-207-0276  
[lee.d.herd@dea.gov](mailto:lee.d.herd@dea.gov)

James E. Brown, Group Supervisor  
Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) #3  
Billings Resident Office (AOR Eastern half of Montana)  
Denver Field Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
2970 King Avenue West  
Billings, MT 59102  
Cell: 406-351-3412  
Fax: 406-651-1600  
[james.e.brown@usdoj.gov](mailto:james.e.brown@usdoj.gov)

Stacy Zinn-Brittain, Resident Agent in Charge  
Billings Resident Office  
Denver Field Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
2970 King Avenue West  
Billings, MT 59102  
Cell: 406-317-3725  
Fax: 406-651-1600  
[stacy.d.zinn-brittain@dea.gov](mailto:stacy.d.zinn-brittain@dea.gov)