



Govt. of Jharkhand  
**Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society**  
Directorate Building, GVI Campus, NHM  
Namkum, Ranchi - 834010  
Tel/Fax – 2211018, Website – [www.jsacs.org.in](http://www.jsacs.org.in)

EOI No. 01/JSACS/2022-23

Last date of receipt of Application :12/09/2022

### **Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

Expression of Interest is invited from eligible service providers for HIV-1 Viral load testing sample transport under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) in the State of Jharkhand. The services related to biological specimen collected sample packaging and transportation from the designated ART centers (Sample collection site) and their delivery to the testing laboratories as per the client approved linkage plan and timelines.

The Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society is a registered society under the societies Registration Act, 1860 which implementation of National AIDS Control Programs (NACP) in the State of Jharkhand.

The Details EOI form can be downloaded from website [www.jsacs.org.in](http://www.jsacs.org.in) on dated 23.08.2022 to 12.09.2022. EOI form completed in all respect should reach JSACS Office Address-Directorate Building 4<sup>th</sup> floor, GVI Campus, NHM, Namkum, Ranchi-834010 on or before 2:00 PM dated 12.09.2022 through Registered /Speed Post.

**-Sd/-**  
**Project Director**

**KNOW AIDS TO STOP AIDS, CALL TOLL FREE NO - 1097**

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

**Profile of Organization and capability**

The Jharkhand 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 Jharkhand.

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 Jharkhand. 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 state. 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.

A format is shared below for providing the capability statement. Any EOI with inadequate information, those which do not meet the above criteria, 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, Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society to arrive not later than 2:00 p.m. on **12.09.2022**.

### **For Further Information**

For further information, interested bidders are requested to visit the SACS website: [www.jsacs.org.in](http://www.jsacs.org.in) Or Contact the e-mail id: [jharkhandlabservices@gmail.com](mailto:jharkhandlabservices@gmail.com), [cstjharkhand01@gmail.com](mailto:cstjharkhand01@gmail.com) Tele – 9234675020,9835911582.

## **Format for providing the Capability statement**

### **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.

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 Entire Jharkhand 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 13790 PLHIVs receiving treatment at 13 ARTC 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 in the State of Jharkhand at Department of Microbiology, RIMS Ranchi.

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 entire Jharkhand logistics for plasma and DBS samples. (**Refer Annexure B**).

The responsibilities of the service provider extend from supply chain management 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 Lab, Department of Microbiology, RIMS Ranchi.
- 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 B**
- j. **Frequency of sample pick up:** As defined in the **Annexure B**.  
**Note : Frequency may be increased or decreased as per client load for testing.**

- 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 logistics (Cold chain box, with icepacks, data logger, refrigerator at Ranchi to store samples at 2-8 degree centigrade) related to 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 Centigrade 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 48 hours 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 entire Jharkhand logistic network connectivity.
- f. Service Provider shall ensure delivery of temperature-controlled shipments within 48 hours 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 envelope 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 Turn Around 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: Linkage plan of sample collection sites with the VL lab, sample type and frequency of sample pick-up



## List of sample collection sites with PLHIV Load

### Annexure - A

SI No	Name of HIV 1 VL Lab	Name of ARTC	ARTC Code	No. Eligible PLHIV (Alive on ART as of October 2021)	Distance between VL lab and ARTC	Time taken by road in hours to reach VL lab from ARTC (one way)
1	RIMS, Ranchi	ART Centre Sadar Hospital, Deoghar	ART-JH- DGR-01	675	248 k.m.	7 hours
2		ART Centre, PMCH, Dhanbad	ART-JH-DHN-01	1184	152 k.m.	4 hours
3		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Daltionganj, Palamu.	ART-JH-DLG-01	1086	175 k. M.	4.5 hours
4		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Giridih	ART-JH-GRD-01	1233	178 k. M.	4.5 hours
5		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Hazaribagh	ART-JH-HZB-01	3126	101 k. M.	2.30 hours
6		ART Centre, MGMMCH, Jamshedpur	ART-JH- JAM-01	1822	135 k.m.	3 hours
7		ART Centre , Sadar Hospital, Koderma	ART-JH- KOD-01	950	160 k. M.	4 hours
8		ART Plus Centre, RIMS, Ranchi	ART-JH- RAN-01	1522	0	0
9		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Bokaro	ART-JH- BOK-01	403	110 k m.	2.30 hours
10		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Sahibganj	ART-JH- SBG-01	417	440 k. M.	11 hours
11		ART centre Sadar Hospital, Dumka	ART-JH- DUM-01	249	290 k. M.	8 hours
12		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, West Singhbhum, Chaibasa	ART-JH- WSM-01	210	160 k. M.	4 hours
13		ART Centre Gumla	ART-JH-Gum-01	200	102 k.M.	2.30 hours

## Linkage plan of sample collection sites with the VL lab, sample type and frequency of sample pick-up

### Annexure - B

SI No	Name of HIV 1 VL Lab	Name of ARTC/Sample Collection Site	ARTC Code	Sample Type	Frequency of Sample Pickup/week	Remarks
1	RIMS, Ranchi	ART Centre Sadar Hospital, Deoghar	ART-JH- DGR-01	Plasma	1	
2		ART Centre, PMCH, Dhanbad	ART-JH-DHN-01	Plasma	2	
3		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Daltionganj, Palamu.	ART-JH-DLG-01	Plasma	2	
4		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Giridih	ART-JH-GRD-01	Plasma	2	
5		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Hazaribagh	ART-JH-HZB-01	Plasma	3	
6		ART Centre, MGGMMCH, Jamshedpur	ART-JH- JAM-01	Plasma	2	
7		ART Centre , Sadar Hospital, Koderma	ART-JH- KOD-01	Plasma	1	
8		ART Plus Centre, RIMS, Ranchi	ART-JH- RAN-01	Plasma	0	
9		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Bokaro	ART-JH- BOK-01	Plasma	1	
10		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Sahibganj	ART-JH- SBG-01	Plasma	1	
11		ART centre Sadar Hospital, Dumka	ART-JH- DUM-01	Plasma	1	
12		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, West Singhbhum, Chaibasa	ART-JH- WSM-01	Plasma	1	
13		ART Centre, Sadar Hospital Gumla	ART-JH-Gum-01	Plasma	1	