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# **URINE INSTRUMENTED INITIAL TEST FACILITY (IITF)**

## **INFORMATION CHECKLIST**

### ***NATIONAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NLCP)***

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**NATIONAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM  
URINE IITF CHECKLIST**

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## **I. URINE IITF INFORMATION CHECKLIST**

### **A. Instructions for the IITF**

#### **Pre-inspection Materials**

Before each scheduled inspection, the NLCP sends instructions to the IITF listing the required pre-inspection materials with due dates for provision. The required materials depend on the inspection type (e.g., initial inspection, maintenance inspection, records audit, special inspection). The following describes some items that may be required.

#### **1. NLCP Urine IITF Information Checklist (Sections B and C)**

The IITF provides up-to-date information to the NLCP on its drug testing operation (i.e., staffing, facility, and procedures) using the NLCP Urine IITF Information Checklist (Sections B and C). The information is maintained in NLCP records and is verified by the inspection team (i.e., inspectors, records auditors) at each NLCP inspection.

#### **2. IITF Operation Schedule/Inspection Schedule**

The IITF provides a schedule of its operations to the NLCP, listing the days and hours for various processes (e.g., receiving, accessioning, initial testing, certification). Using this schedule, NLCP staff prepare a tentative schedule for the inspection team. To adequately assess operations on every shift, inspectors will periodically inspect processes that occur during off-shifts. The lead inspector determines the final schedule for the inspection team at most NLCP inspections. The lead auditor determines the final schedule for a records audit. Inspectors should note any changes to the schedule in their checklist submission.

#### **3. Key Staff Interview List**

The IITF provides a Staff Interviews List to the NLCP, listing key staff, their job titles, and work schedules. NLCP staff select individuals from the list to be interviewed at the inspection and return the list to the IITF, instructing the IITF to ensure that the selected individuals are available for interview during the inspection. In addition to interacting with IITF staff during the inspection, the inspection team conducts formal interviews (i.e., 10 – 15 minutes each) with each selected staff member individually to evaluate their knowledge and ability to fulfill job duties.

#### **4. IITF Computers and Information Systems (Section P)**

To facilitate the inspection of the IITF's computer and information systems, the NLCP directs the IITF to perform a self-assessment using Section P, IITF Computer Systems. The IITF will answer Section P checklist questions and provide explanatory comments (e.g., describe procedures and records) to support those

answers. The IITF provides the completed Section P to the inspection team at the beginning of the inspection.

#### 5. Floor plan of the IITF

The floorplan must clearly identify areas (e.g., accessioning, testing, certification, reporting), clearly indicate how the areas are secured and what security devices are utilized (e.g., which walls are outside walls; which are secured up to the ceiling; the location and type of security devices such as magnetic key cards, cipher locks, padlocks; location of secured storage areas such as refrigerators or freezers and how they are secured).

#### 6. IITF data packages

The IITF provides two data packages to the NLCP: one for a specimen forwarded to a laboratory based on initial **drug test** results and one forwarded to a laboratory based on **specimen validity test** results (i.e., pH, creatinine and specific gravity, or oxidant tests). These data packages should contain all chain of custody forms, worksheets, initial drug test data, screening specimen validity test data, initial specimen validity test data, and reports pertaining to the specimen. The program-required format for data packages is described in Section R of the NLCP Manual for Urine IITFs. These must be recent specimens, processed since the last NLCP inspection using the IITF's current procedures. **Note:** the terms "screening specimen validity test" and "initial specimen validity test" are defined in Section J of the NLCP Manual for Urine IITFs. If the laboratory uses more than one technology for initial drug tests (e.g., immunoassay, LC-MS/MS), the laboratory must also provide drug test batch data and associated documents for a drug positive sample tested using each technology.

#### 7. Hotel list

The IITF provides a list of several hotels/motels located near the IITF and near the airport. Hotels selected should ensure the safety and welfare of the inspectors during the inspection. During the inspection, inspectors should notify the RT of alternate hotel suggestions and notify the NLCP of suggestions after the inspection.

#### 8. Directions

The IITF provides a clear, precise map with directions describing the routes from the airport to the hotels and from the hotels to the IITF. Hotels selected should ensure the safety and welfare of the inspectors during the inspection.

### **Forwarded and Rejected Specimen List (FRSL)**

Prior to each NLCP inspection that includes a records audit, the NLCP notifies the IITF of the specified audit period (e.g., the six-month period ending one month prior to the

month of the inspection). The IITF is required to identify all regulated specimens that, during that time, were reported as rejected or were forwarded to a certified laboratory for testing. The IITF must submit to the NLCP a list of these specimens, with specific information for each specimen. The IITF also provides a monthly summary for the records audit period listing the numbers of regulated specimens reported as negative, negative-dilute, and rejected.

The NLCP provides instructions for the FRSL to the IITF prior to the inspection. These instructions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Format for FRSL spreadsheet
2. The IITF will provide information for each specimen (e.g., the reason for rejection, the reason for forwarding to a laboratory and identification of the laboratory to which the specimen was forwarded, receipt date, report date, forwarded date).
3. Specimens to be included on the FRSL:
  - The IITF must list only specimens reported as rejected and specimens forwarded to a certified laboratory for testing.
  - The IITF must remove all known NLCP performance testing (PT) samples.
4. Requirements for records assembly

The NLCP selects specimens from the submitted FRSL for review during the inspection and provides the selected list to the IITF and to the lead auditor. The IITF must organize and assemble records for each of the selected specimens to facilitate their review by the audit team during the inspection. At a minimum, records must be assembled by reason (see item 2 above) and in chronological order, to facilitate their location within labeled storage folders/boxes. Auditors must be able to retrieve all records (excluding failed batches) pertaining to a specimen on the selected FRSL with a minimum of assistance from the IITF staff.

During the inspection, the lead auditor and the Responsible Technician (RT) will prepare an inventory of records for the selected specimens on the FRSL that were not available for review. The RT must forward the missing records to the NLCP for subsequent review and follow-up.

### **IITF Preparation Criteria List**

Prior to each inspection, the NLCP sends an IITF Preparation Criteria List to the IITF, listing materials that must be available for the inspection team upon their arrival at the IITF. Materials include a copy of the standard operating procedures (SOP) manual for each inspection team member, NLCP PT records, personnel files, quality assurance (QA) records, calibrator and control records, reagent records, validation records, a timeline of any changes in calibrator or control criteria and acceptance limits during the records audit period, and documentation of security procedures (e.g., access rosters

and visitor logs for each secured area). Other items may be requested for review prior to or during the inspection.



B-4. List the changes made by the IITF (e.g., new instrumentation, new or revised analytical procedures, new or revised software) ***since the last NLCP inspection***, and effective date of each change:

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B-5. Days/hours of operation of the forensic urine drug testing IITF:  
\_\_\_\_\_ days per week; \_\_\_\_\_ hours per day

If **≤ 6 days**, indicate the day(s) that the IITF is routinely **not** operational:

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B-6. Does the IITF have a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration? YES NO

If **YES**, for which schedules?

\_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_2N \_\_\_3 \_\_\_3N \_\_\_4 \_\_\_5

If **NO**, explain how controlled reference materials are acquired:

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B-7. Describe the State licensure requirements for urine forensic toxicology for the State in which the IITF is located:

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B-8. List IITF certifications/licenses:

\_\_\_\_\_ States (List): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ CLIA/HCFA<sup>1</sup> (List Specialties): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ CAP<sup>2</sup> (List Specialties): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Others (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)/Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)

<sup>2</sup>College of American Pathologists (CAP)

B-9. List name, job title, education, and licenses/certifications for the following key staff:

**Note: (1) May attach separate sheet listing additional key staff**  
**(2) Indicate (\*) individuals new to the positions in the last 6 months**

	Name	Job Title	Education	License/ Certification
<b>RT(s)</b>				
<b>Alt-RT(s)</b>				
<b>Certifying Technician(s)</b>				
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>				
<b>Other Key Staff</b>				

a. Is licensure and/or certification required for any of the above positions in the State in which the IITF is located? YES NO

If YES, describe requirements: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

B-10. If there is more than one RT, briefly describe how the RTs share the responsibilities for the various IITF operations and procedures.

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B-11. Describe the administrative relationships that exist for the **key staff** of the forensic drug testing IITF (see B-9 above):

a. To whom does the RT(s) report? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who evaluates the performance of the RT(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. What staff administratively report **directly** to the RT(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. The RT(s) evaluates the performance of which staff members?

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e. Which staff members do not report to the RT(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

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B-12. Does the IITF test any federal agency specimens for drugs other than those specified in the HHS Guidelines?

YES NO

If **YES**, list the drug(s) and answer a and b below:

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a. Does the IITF have a copy of the HHS waiver for a federal agency to test the additional drug(s) on a routine basis?

YES NO

b. Does the IITF maintain written authorization from federal agencies to test the additional drug(s) on a case-by-case basis?

YES NO

B-13. Average number of specimens analyzed by the IITF each day for drugs of abuse **during the six months preceding submission of Sections B and C (both regulated and non-regulated specimens):**

Specify the months \_\_\_\_\_

Total specimens/day \_\_\_\_\_

How was this number derived? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B-14. The total number of staff who have authorized access to the secure forensic drug testing IITF facility:

\_\_\_\_\_ individuals

B-15. List the total numbers of staff who are trained and routinely perform the following activities **for regulated specimens:**

Activity	No. of Individuals
Accessioning	
Initial drug testing	
Screening/initial specimen validity testing	
Certification	
Specimen sendout to laboratory	

B-16. List the name and location of each HHS-certified laboratory that has a legally binding arrangement to receive, test, and report regulated specimens from the IITF. The documentation of the arrangement (e.g., contract, written agreement between corporate IITFs and laboratories) must outline the responsibilities of each party and be signed by each Responsible Person (RP) of the laboratory and by each RT of the IITF.

Laboratory Name	Location (City, State)



### C. IITF Procedures (completed by the IITF)

Any computer interface communicating any form of data from an HHS-certified IITF to an HHS-certified laboratory must be approved by the NLCP prior to implementation. The IITF and/or laboratories must submit a detailed plan to the NLCP for review. Affected test facilities will be subject to inspection to verify compliance with NLCP requirements. HHS-certified laboratories are prohibited from transmitting data to an HHS-certified IITF through a computer interface.

**NOTE:** Before using an electronic Federal Custody and Control Form (ECCF) system for regulated specimens, an HHS-certified test facility must submit a detailed plan and proposed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the ECCF system to the NLCP for review and authorization, and undergo an onsite inspection.

C-1. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

#### **Security**

- Building
- Department
- Specimens
- Records

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-2. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

#### **Specimen Receiving/Accessioning**

- Receipt of specimen packages, how they are handled, receipt of specimens received with a paper custody and control form (CCF), receipt of specimens received with an ECCF, who reviews the accuracy of the information on the custody and control forms and how discrepancies are documented.
- Handling problems with specimen bottles and/or custody and control forms.
- Assignment of IITF accession numbers.
- Location of temporary storage area(s).

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-3. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

#### **Aliquotting Procedures**

- Aliquotting of the original specimen bottles (i.e., who and where).
- The actual aliquotting procedure (pouring or pipetting and amounts) used for preparing aliquots for initial drug tests and specimen validity tests.

- Transfer of aliquots from the individuals performing the aliquotting to those who will be testing the aliquots.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-4. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Specimen Sendout to Laboratory**

- Retrieval of the original specimen bottles from storage and how they are handled, including chain of custody documentation.
- Resealing the primary specimen bottle.
- Packaging the primary and split specimen bottles and the Federal Custody and Control Form (CCF) for shipment.
- Maintaining records of forwarded specimens.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-5. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Specimen Accessioning**

- Introduction and/or aliquotting of blind controls into the test batches by accessioning personnel.
- If applicable, preparation and submission of blind samples as donor specimens from external sources.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-6. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**First and Second Initial Drug Tests**

- Handling and testing of aliquots by IITF personnel.
- Maintenance of chain of custody during the testing.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-7. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**First and Second Initial Drug Tests**

- How batches are constituted (e.g., how many specimens are in a batch, is it constituted in one session or are specimens added to the batch throughout

the day, are regulated and non-regulated specimens tested in the same batches).

- The distribution of specimens, calibrators, and controls within each batch.
- The acceptance criteria for calibration and for each control (open and blind) in each batch and when and by whom these are evaluated and documented.
- The criteria for accepting all donor specimen results or only a partial number of donor specimens in a batch.
- For an alternate technology (as applicable), the criteria for accepting a donor specimen result, reextracting a specimen, or reinjecting a specimen.

**Note:** (1) Insert here.  
(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.

C-8. Provide the following information for the first and second Initial Drug Tests:

Describe the procedure(s) and acceptance criteria for calibration:

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Describe the method used to calculate the concentrations/ results of analytes:

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C-9. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Specimen Validity Tests (Screening and Initial)**

- Handling and testing of aliquots by IITF personnel.
- Maintenance of chain of custody during the testing.

**Note:** the terms "screening specimen validity test" and "initial specimen validity test" are defined in Section J of the NLCP Manual for Urine IITFs.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-10. Provide an outline or a legible flow chart that comprehensively describes the IITF's Specimen Validity Testing.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

- a. List any changes to the specimen validity testing outline/flowchart during the time period of the FRSL audit, with the effective date of each change.

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C-11. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Specimen Validity Tests (Screening and Initial)**

- How batches are constituted.
- The distribution of specimens, calibrators and controls within each batch.
- The acceptance criteria for each control (open and blind) in each batch and when and by whom these are evaluated and documented.
- The criteria for accepting all donor specimen results or only a partial number of donor specimens in a batch.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-12. Provide the following information for the Specimen Validity Tests (i.e., screening and initial tests):

Describe the procedures and acceptance criteria for calibration:

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Describe the method used to calculate the concentrations/ responses of measurands:

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C-13. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Certification/Reporting Procedures**

- Review of all calibration and control data.
- Review of chain of custody forms.
- Review of specimen data.
- Documentation and certification of results (i.e., procedures for paper CCFs, combination electronic/paper CCFs, and ECCFs, including use of electronic signatures by certifying technicians)
- Release of specimens for sendout to a laboratory.
- Release/reporting of results.
- Verification of information (e.g., CCF and computer resident result).

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-14. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Electronic Reporting Procedures**

- Reporting using an ECCF system: ECCF system provider(s) name and address; ECCF reporting procedures (including how ECCF data are secured (e.g., during transmission and storage); reporting methods; how MROs access completed ECCFs
- Web-based reporting: where report data are sent (i.e., website addresses; location and ownership of servers); file formats; external service provider(s) name and address (including cloud-based service providers); how report data are secured (i.e., during transmission and storage); how MROs access reports
- Release of computer-generated electronic reports (i.e., methods other than above).

**Note: (1) Insert here.**  
**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

C-15. Provide an example of the IITF's computer-generated electronic report for each of the following IITF results:

- Negative
- Negative, Dilute
- Rejected

C-16. Does the IITF use an off-site computer information system? YES NO

If YES,

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

C-17. Provide a description of the IITF's procedures for the following:

**Disposition of Specimens and Aliquots**

- Handling of original specimen bottles and aliquots after testing is completed.

**Note: (1) Insert here.**

**(2) Do not exceed a total of one page.**

**Complete the C Tables:**

**Table C-1-a-1.** Immunoassay Initial Drug Test Methods and Instruments

**Table C-1-a-2.** LC-MS/MS Initial Drug Test Methods

**Table C-1-a-3.** Initial Drug Test Methods and Instruments – Liquid Chromatography

**Table C-1-a-4.** Initial Drug Test Methods and Instruments – Tandem Mass Spectrometry

**Table C-1-b.** Immunoassay First Initial Drug Test Calibrators and Controls

**Table C-1-c.** Immunoassay Second Initial Drug Test Calibrators and Controls

**Table C-1-d.** Initial Drug Test Calibrators and Controls – LC-MS/MS

**Table C-2-a-1.** Initial Specimen Validity Test Methods and Instruments (continued on **Table C-2-a-2** as needed)

**Table C-2-b-1 and C-2-b-2.** *not applicable for an IITF*

**Table C-2-c-1.** Screening/Differential Specimen Validity Test Methods and Instruments (continued on **Table C-2-c-2** as needed)

**Table C-2-d-1.** Initial Specimen Validity Test Calibrators and Controls (continued on **Table C-2-d-2** as needed)

**Table C-2-d-3 and C-2-d-4.** *not applicable for an IITF*

**Table C-2-d-5.** Screening/Differential Specimen Validity Test Calibrators and Controls

**C-3 Tables.** *not applicable for an IITF*

**Tables C-4-a through C-4-c.** *not applicable for an IITF*