

Department of Defense Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Guide for Ordering Laboratory Analyses for the Detection of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

(Rev. June, 2023)

Reissues and Cancels: Department of Defense Military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Guide, Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing of DoD Firefighters in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2020, Rev. October 23, 2020

References.

1. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), Section 707, "Provision of Blood Testing for Firefighters of Department of Defense to Determine Exposure to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.
2. Memorandum For, Subject: Blood Testing for DoD Firefighters to Determine Exposure to Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances," September 29, 2020.
3. DoD 6055.05-M, "Occupational Medical Examinations: Medical Surveillance and Medical Qualification," July 27, 2022.
4. Defense Health Agency Memorandum, "Blood Testing Department of Defense Firefighter for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances," October 23, 2020.
5. Memorandum for Record, Subject: "Declination of Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing."
6. Memorandum for, Subject: "Results of Your Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing."

Applicability. MTF Commanders and Directors, MTF healthcare providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, among others), and any other MTF workers (e.g., laboratory and scheduling staff) whose responsibilities include firefighter occupational health examinations.

Background. Public Law (PL) 116-92 required the Secretary of Defense to provide blood testing to determine and document potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as PFAS) for each firefighter of the Department of Defense during the annual physical exam conducted by the Department for each such firefighter. The PL defines the term "firefighter" to mean someone whose primary job or military occupational specialty is being a firefighter. In accordance with Reference 2., Occupational Health Clinics are to offer PFAS blood testing to Firefighters during the pre-placement and annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examinations.

Guidance.

- 1.) Provide a copy of the DoD Firefighter PFAS Fact Sheet to the DoD Firefighter during the pre-placement and each annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examination.
- 2.) The occupational health clinic staff must permit DoD Firefighters the opportunity and time to thoroughly read the DoD Firefighter PFAS Fact Sheet and address their questions before formally offering a PFAS blood test.
- 3.) DoD Firefighters may accept or decline the offer of a PFAS blood test.
 - a. If the Firefighter **accepts** the PFAS blood test, the occupational health clinic will:
 - i. Verify the DoD Firefighter's mailing address in the civilian employee medical record, including the electronic health record (EHR).
 - ii. Order the PFAS blood test:
 1. Composite Health Care System (CHCS) and Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA):
 - a. Primary Synonym: **Perfluoroalkyl Substances, S/P**
 - b. Ancillary Synonyms: **PFAS Expanded S/P** (clinics) and **LC 832140** (lab)

**** For problems, contact the local MTF laboratory ****
 2. Military Health System Genesis
 - a. Primary Synonym: **Perfluoroalkyl Substances, S/P**
 - b. Ancillary Synonyms: **PFAS Expanded S/P** (clinics) and **LC 832140** (lab)

**** For problems, submit a DHA GSC Ticket ****
 - b. If the Firefighter **declines** the PFAS blood test, the occupational health clinic will require the DoD Firefighter to complete the Memorandum for Record, Subject: Declination of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing, including their full name, signature (wet or digital), and date.
 - i. If the DoD Firefighter refuses to complete the Memorandum for Record, annotate the memo with the firefighter's name and date, add "Refused to Sign" below the "DoD Firefighter Signature" line, and include the name, title, and signature of the occupational health clinic staff member to whom the firefighter stated their refusal.

- ii. The occupational health clinic must retain the completed declination memorandum in the civilian employee medical record, including the EHR.
 - c. The occupational health clinic performing annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examinations must maintain data for the total number of DoD Firefighter occupational health examinations performed, including the number of examinations during which Firefighters accepted or declined the offer for a PFAS blood test. The occupational health clinic must retain this data on a rolling basis, by month and fiscal year, and is subject to reporting this data to DHA higher headquarters upon request.
- 4.) MTF Laboratory: The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code **83921** is built into the DoD Standard Test File for the PFAS blood test, as described in 3.a.ii. above.
- 5.) At the end of the medical encounter, the healthcare provider will document the following in the EHR:
- a. Diagnosis Codes. The following codes are relevant to occupational medical encounters including PFAS blood testing and are recommended for use. Other diagnostic codes may be added as clinically and administratively appropriate.
 - i. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes:
 - 1. CMI) **DOD0214** (Exam, Formal occupational health program, pre-placement), or
 - 2. CMI) **DOD0215** (Exam, formal occupational health program (including HCP), periodic for continued surveillance for occupational workplace exposure), or
 - 3. CMI) **DOD0216** (Exam, formal occupational health program (including HCP), due to termination of occupational workplace exposure), or
 - 4. CMII) **Z57.5** (Occupational exposure to toxic agents in other industries). If Z57.5 is not available in MHS Genesis, use SNOMED CT Code: **3518097016** (Exposure to toxic agent).
 - b. In the assessment component of the medical encounter record, the examining healthcare provider must state, “The DoD Firefighter was offered PFAS Blood Testing IAW NDAA FY2020, Section 707 – ACCEPTED/DECLINED.” – The healthcare provider shall indicate **ONLY** the DoD Firefighter’s choice.
 - c. The examining healthcare provider must also document in the medical encounter record that the DoD Firefighter:

- i. Received and reviewed the DoD Firefighter PFAS Fact Sheet and had their subsequent questions addressed.
 - ii. Was informed by the occupational health clinic of their right to accept or decline the offer for a PFAS blood test only available in conjunction with the annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examination.
 - iii. Was informed that the occupational health clinic will provide their PFAS blood test results when the laboratory report is available.
 - iv. Was informed that any follow-on health care or medical evaluations based on the PFAS laboratory result must be sought from their private healthcare at their own expense.
- 6.) The Occupational Health Clinic must provide the Firefighter a copy of their PFAS laboratory report and a copy of the completed Memorandum, Subject: Results of Your Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing. The occupational health clinic may send these records by U.S. mail, including tracking, to the Firefighter's mailing address verified during the annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examination. The Occupational Health Clinic must annotate the corresponding medical encounter stating that the PFAS blood test results and memorandum were provided to the DoD Firefighter.

Occupational Health Clinic healthcare providers may locate a copy of policies and approved templates relevant to this guidance document by visiting the Military Health System Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances website, [Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances | Health.mil](#).