



E-221211

Govt. of Bihar

Health Department

Bihar State AIDS Control Society

6th floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Shekhpura, Patna-14

Website: bsacs.bihar.gov.in

Phone No-0612-
2290278

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
SAMPLE TRANSPORT FOR HIV-1 VIRAL LOADS TESTING**

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 Bihar. The service provider services related to biological specimen packaging and transportation from the designated ART centres in the State (sample collection site) at present 30 ART centres and their delivery to Patna (RMRI, PMCH & AIIMS) the testing laboratories as per the client approved linkage plan and timelines.

Any EOI Bid with inadequate information or irrelevant documentation or incomplete Data Form or 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 much as possible to give evidence of the above requirements including the capability statement and organization profiles.

The detailed EOI Bid documents including Data form, terms and conditions, eligibility can be obtained from the Procurement cell of Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna on all working days (Monday to Friday) between 11.00 hours and 16.00 hours. **It may also be downloaded from the website of BSACS (bsacs.bihar.gov.in).**

The last date and time for submission of the completed EOI BID will be on or before 18.00 hrs. **on September, 04, 2025.** The EOI must be submitted through Courier/Speed Post/Registered Post only at the Dispatch Section of Bihar State AIDS Control Society. The EOI Bid submitted by hand or by any other means will not be accepted. The Society will not be responsible for any postal delay.

For further information, interested bidders/agency is requested to contact I/C Procurement, Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna during office hours.

Bihar State AIDS Control Society reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all proposal or change the terms and condition of EOI or cancel the EOI without assigning any reasons at any journey stage of this EOI.


Joint Director Finance



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

The detailed EOI documents including Data form, terms and conditions, eligibility can be obtained from the Procurement cell of Bihar state AIDS Control Society, Patna on all working days (Monday to Friday) between 11.00 hours and 16.00 hours. It may also be downloaded from the website of bsacs.bihar.gov.in.

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For further information, interested bidders are requested to visit the SACS website: www.bsacs.in Or Contact to Additional Project Director, Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna, during office hours.

Format for providing the Capability statement Profile of Organization and capability: Format for information related to Expression of Interest Section

Section A: Basic Informations

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

S.N.	Category	Worth in Rupees (eg. Land and Building

10 a. Please provide details regarding the annual budget of your agency/supplier and attach the detailed audited statement for the last three F.Y.

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.

1

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 organization.

- 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 (10 Lakh)

15. Name of the person who filled this form:

Designation:

Address (with pin code)

Email Address with Telephone/ Mobile number

12

Technical requirements for Operational Criteria for Entire Bihar State
Temperature Controlled Logistics

Biological sample transport for HIV-1 Viral load testing under the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) Operational criteria for Bihar State 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 93,538 PLHIVs receiving treatment at 30 ARTC centres (Referred -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.

NACO is implementing routine HIV-1 Viral Load testing in the State of Bihar at Department of Microbiology, PMCH Patna, RMRI & AIIMS. (As per Annexure A).

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 at 30 ART Centres) and their delivery to Patna (RMRI, PMCH & AIIMS) the testing laboratories as per the client approved linkage plan and timelines. The service provider should have provisions for temperature and humidity-controlled entire Bihar logistics for plasma and DBS samples.

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/Requirement 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 loads Lab, Department of Microbiology, PMCH, Patna refer to 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. 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 **Patna 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.

4. 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.

4.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 Bihar 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 nonfunctional 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 nonworking hours, weekends or on holidays unless prior arrangement with the receiving laboratory has been made.
1. The Service provider is responsible for end to end monitoring of temperature during sample transportation.

4.C. Packaging of 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.

4.D. Transport of DBS specimens

- 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.

List of Annexure:

1. **Annexure A:** DISTICT WISE PLHIV VIRAL LOAD SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN OF ALIVE DATA

A

PLHIV VIRAL LOAD SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN

S.No.	Name of ART Centre	Alive On ART PLHIV upto May 2025	Name of Viral load Lab	Days
1	DMCH, Darbhanga	4530	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
2	KMC, Katihar	2755	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
3	Sadar Hospital, Madhubani	5527	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
4	SKMCH, Muzaffarpur	5153	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
5	Sadar Hospital, Purnia	3251	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
6	Sadar Hospital, Sitamarhi	4853	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
7	Sadar Hospital, Siwan	3209	AIIMS, Patna	Monday & Thursday
8	Sadar Hospital, Supaul	1265	AIIMS, Patna	Thursday
9	Sadar Hospital, Kaimur	839	AIIMS, Patna	Thursday
10	Sadar Hospital, Sasaram	1705	AIIMS, Patna	Thursday
11	GMCH, Bettiah	3688	PMCH, Patna	Tuesday and Friday
12	Sadar Hospital, Gopalganj	3487	PMCH, Patna	Tuesday and Friday
13	Sadar Hospital, Jamui	1112	PMCH, Patna	Friday
14	Sadar Hospital, Motihari	5986	PMCH, Patna	Tuesday and Friday
15	Sadar Hospital, Munger	919	PMCH, Patna	Friday
16	PMCH, Patna	4534	PMCH, Patna (Co located)	Tuesday and Friday
17	Sadar Hospital, Samastipur	4016	PMCH, Patna	Tuesday and Friday
18	FI-ART Centre, Sadar Hospital, Aurangabad	1294	PMCH, Patna	Friday
19	Sadar Hospital, Nalanda	2461	PMCH, Patna	Tuesday and Friday
20	Sadar Hospital, Begusarai	4545	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday
21	Sadar Hospital, Bhojpur	3921	RMRI, Patna	Saturday
22	Sadar Hospital, Chapra	5107	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday
23	Dunan Hospital, Raxaul	525	RMRI, Patna	Saturday
24	Sadar Hospital, Hajipur	4492	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday
25	Sadar Hospital, Khagaria	2766	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday
26	RMRI, Patna	2961	RMRI, Patna (Co located)	Wednesday and Saturday
27	JLNMCH, Bhagalpur	2748	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday

28	ANMMCH, Gaya	5386	RMRI, Patna	Wednesday and Saturday
29	Sadar Hospital, Banka	425	RMRI, Patna	Saturday
30	NSMCH, Amhara, Bihta, Patna	78	AIIMS, Patna	First Saturday