



The Review

NBIMC News, Updates, & Announcements

November 2024

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NBIMC is located on the
NSA Bethesda campus in
Bldg. 17B.

Hours: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 301-295-6590

NBIMC Website:

<https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Force-Health-Protection-Command/Field-Activities/Navy-Bloodborne-Infection-Management-Center/>

NBIMC email:

dha.bethesda.wrnmmbx.nbimc@health.mil

Department Head

Phone: 301-295-6590

Bldg. 17B, 3rd floor, Suite
3G.



Upcoming NBIMC Events

Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Visits NBIMC Nov. 13-14

On November 13th and 14th, the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) -Atlantic team is traveling to the NBIMC office. NIWC assists and supports NBIMC with the HIV Management System (HMS) through the application of expert informational systems programming to develop various aspects of the HMS database. While visiting NBIMC, NIWC offers any necessary updates to HMS, resolves critical system matters, streamlines systems communications, and actively collaborates with NBIMC to deliver database improvements. Overtime, NBIMC has been able to effectively increase the efficiency of the HMS database through NIWC's team efforts. NBIMC looks forward to discussing new, potential additions to HMS with NIWC during the upcoming, November meetings.

Department of Defense Serum Repository (DODSR) Visit

The NBIMC team will visit the DODSR on Thursday, November 21st. During the visit, NBIMC will observe how the DODSR receives, stores, and retains HIV specimens and relevant HIV testing data. The DODSR's operations significantly contribute to NBIMC's work and NBIMC looks forward to this educational visit.

NBIMC Website Updates

The [NBIMC website](#) is continually being updated to include new resources and helpful information. Select the “Key Resources” tab to view important documents that may be of use to you or your organization. Documents linked under this tab encompass various topics, including, provider resources, HIV ordering info for service members on PrEP, Lab & Specimen FAQs, Deficiency Code Keys, and more.

A new section titled “NBIMC In the News” has also been added to the site and can be found under the “Public Affairs” tab. This new section provides historical articles on NBIMC and Navy HIV Central.

NBIMC staff member information and bios along with NBIMC contributions to scientific literature is also available on the NBIMC website and accessible to all.

Announcements

D4 Rejection Code Info

D4 deficiencies/D4 reject codes labeled “(other problems)” are designed to encompass several different potential issues. However, D4 rejections with reasonings of “specimen not spun” and “specimen is past 7 days from draw date” are the most prominent D4 reject codes for all sites.

To provide more clarity for sites receiving these D4 rejects, CDD explains that “specimen not spun” can have more than one meaning. First, this error can mean that the specimen was not spun at all. Secondly, this error can also mean that the sample was not spun long enough (or for the correct amount of time). This means that the gel barrier has not settled/compacted properly, and the red blood cells are seeping through the gel into the serum.

Any other issues that are not specifically covered under the remaining eight rejection codes also fall

under D4. The other eight rejection codes are more specific, while D4 includes multiple explanations for specimen issues in one generalized deficiency code. **To prevent D4 reject codes, sites need to redraw the specimen(s).** Please see the [NBIMC Deficiency Code Review](#) doc for more information.

Expired SSTs: Action Required

Required Action – Rotation of Serum Separator Tubes (SSTs), placing SSTs with shorter shelf lives upfront.

The Center for Disease Detection (CDD) recently noticed a concerning trend of HIV serum separator tubes (SST) expiring at some of the submitting laboratory sites. The CDD warehouse crew diligently manages the SST inventory, ensuring that the oldest SSTs are dispatched to the sites first.

It's crucial that the Navy, Marines and US Coast Guard sites follow the same SST inventory cycle. The SST ship out have approximately 12 months of shelf life left. However, some sites are reporting that they have expired 2-4 months after receipt. This suggests that the submitting laboratories are using the most recent shipments, leading to the older ones remaining unused and expiring. Your adherence to the SST inventory cycle is integral to the process and avoids mismanagement of supplies.

Rejection Metric Reports

NBIMC has developed Rejection Metric Reports for all laboratory sites to track deficiency data. Upon receiving an email with your site's reports, please review your site deficiencies data and contact us if you have any questions. Data included in Rejection Metric Reports for sites, include:

- Total # of tests submitted per site/UIC
- Total # of rejections (D2-D9 deficiencies) per site/UIC
- Average percent rejects per site/UIC

- D4 reject totals broken down by D4 reject reasonings
- D1 COR errors & D1 COR % rejects per site/UIC

Site Specific Rejection Metric Reports are **available upon request**. Submit a report request via email to NBIMC Program Analysts:

Ai Marrero - ai.marrero.civ@health.mil

Julia Wolfrey - julia.d.wolfrey.ctr@health.mil

MRRS Update Requests

Please email dha.bethesda.Walter-Reed-Med-Ctr.mbx.nbimc@health.mil with Service Members' Last, First Name and their DoD ID numbers to request MRRS record update. NBIMC staff will review their results to ensure that tests resulted comply with Force Testing Requirements and update the records in MRRS accordingly.

NBIMC is unable to update the service member's HIV status in MRRS without a test result that is compliant with the Force testing requirements. The member needs to receive a **force testing HIV-1/2 AG/AB 4G**. Even if a Service Member has a **HIV-1/2 Ab test result in MHS Genesis**, this test does not qualify/ meet the force testing standards.

Please note that we cannot use civilian provider or (VA) result to update the HIV readiness in MRRS. HIV results from private/civilian/VA providers are not compliant with the [SECNAVINST 5300.30](#) and [DODI 6485.01](#) (links embedded). In these instructions testing for HIV must be reported to the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) and the samples must be sent to the DoD Serum Repository. The member will need to go to a Navy MTF or a NOSC near their location to get appropriate test completed as indicated above.

CDD Holiday Schedule

All sites should take note of CDD's Holiday operating hours below:

- Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day –
OPEN
- Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day –
OPEN
- Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day –
CLOSED
- Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day –
CLOSED
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day –
CLOSED