

UDC Update

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New Data Forms

The revised Annual Visit and Refusal Forms are in! Soon, we will be sending packets containing the following items:

- Starter packets of new forms
- Revised *Data Forms Manual*
- Replacement pages document describing all changes to the forms
- New data forms masters
- Instructions for when to start using the new forms

New CDC ID Software

The CDC ID generating program has been improved! The program is now Windows based and offers several new features including:

- Optional exporting of both names and assigned CDC ID to an Excel spreadsheet
- Printing of ID labels to laser printer on standard label form sheets
- Printing of ID as both numeric and barcode

A *User's Manual* that provides detailed instructions along with illustrations will accompany the new software. This material will be sent with the new data forms packet (see above).

Shipping Supplies and Lab Results

Need shipping supplies or lab results? Don't call the serum bank, call us!

Although serum bank personnel always try to be helpful, they are not responsible for returning shippers or lab results to the sites. In fact, they receive no information about these matters at all, nor do they stock shipping or other UDC supplies. Inquiries about overdue shippers or lab results, and requests, written or verbal, for supplies of any kind can be handled most expeditiously when they are sent directly to Meredith Oakley at CDC (phone 404-371-5277; fax 404-371-5424).

Anti-HBs Testing Reinstated for All Core-negative Participants


In April 2000, the hepatitis lab began performing hepatitis testing on specimens from repeat participants according to the previously established UDC surveillance testing algorithms (see pp. 83-87 in the *UDC HTC Procedures Manual*). Under this algorithm, persons whose Anti-HBs was ≥ 20 mIU/mL were not to be retested in subsequent years. However, it was brought to our attention that many centers measure Anti-HBs on their patients every year to monitor for protective antibody levels and that providing this testing

through UDC would be a service to the community. As of January 2001, the lab is now testing new specimens from previously total Anti-HBc-negative repeat participants for Anti-HBs. Persons who were previously total Anti-HBc-positive at levels ≥ 3.5 will not be retested. If you receive a report lacking HBV results for a participant for whom you feel HBV testing should have been performed, please contact Meredith Oakley at (404) 371-5277. (Specimens submitted between March and December 2000 which did not get Anti-HBs testing will not be tested except upon special request).

Changes in Data Forms Shipment

Soon, we will be sending out postage-paid, preaddressed mailing envelopes for the return of UDC data collection forms through U.S. mail. This change will not only save money but also prevent a rather common, potentially serious mistake. About once every 6 weeks, a site will inadvertently use the FedEx air bill designated for data forms (with our office address) to ship blood specimens. When this occurs, we must use a special courier to transfer the package from our office in Atlanta to the serum bank in Lawrenceville. This transfer not only results in considerable extra expense but also delays delivery of the specimens. More importantly, since we are located in a public office building, there's the potential for exposure of untrained office workers to infectious blood specimens. Until this transition is made, please take extra care when affixing the air bill to your blood specimens to ensure that you are using the correct FedEx air bill.

 = **Blood Specimens and Laboratory forms ONLY**

 = **All other data forms**

Validation Error Reports

Please take the time to promptly respond to the validation error reports. Simply write the corrections on the validation error form itself and fax it to our office at (404) 371-5423. Do not send a

copy of the original data form. The validation error reports are sent out once per week. Validation errors that are not corrected are re-faxed each week until they are corrected. In addition, errors not corrected after 2 weeks are followed up by a phone call from one of our staff to the UDC contact. The simplest way to avoid receiving multiple copies of error reports and follow-up phone calls is to make your error corrections and transmit them to CDC within one week. For your convenience, Evett Palmer will be glad to handle your corrections over the phone. She can be reached at (404) 371-5251.

UDC Surveillance Reports

Ever wonder what happens to the data that you collect as part of the UDC? The answer is that CDC epidemiologists analyze the data and provide reports on the results several times per year. Since the start of the UDC project, five reports on the data have been published. The reports include tables and graphs of nearly all of the data collected as part of UDC. Each issue also focuses on a new aspect of the data. All of the reports are available for viewing and downloading on our website at the following address: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dastlr/Hematology/HDBpubs.htm>. If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a copy of any or all of the issues from HANDI by calling them at 1-800-42HANDI.



UDC staff at CDC

Bruce L. Evatt, M.D.
Chief, Hematologic Diseases Branch
Sally Crudder, R.N.
Director, HTC Program
Mike Soucie, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
Meredith Oakley, D.V.M., M.P.H.
UDC Project Coordinator
Beverly Roberts, B.S.
Program Management Officer
Sara Critchley, R.N.
Education and Communication
Evett Palmer
Data Entry
Ashaki Brockington
Data Entry

