

# **Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Treatment Facility (MTF)<sup>1</sup> Guide for Ordering Laboratory Analyses for the Detection of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Blood or Serum**

(Rev. January 2025)

**Reissues and Cancels:** Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Guide for Ordering Laboratory Analyses for the Detection of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Blood or Serum of Firefighters in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2020, Rev. June 2023

## **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. DoD 6055.05-M, “Occupational Medical Examinations: Medical Surveillance and Medical Qualification,” July 27, 2022, as amended.
3. DoD Firefighter Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Factsheet: A Guide for Department of Defense Firefighters and Other Personnel Who Perform Firefighting Duties, revised July 2024.
4. Declination of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing, revised July 2024.

**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.** Section 707 of Public Law (PL) 116-92 required the Secretary of Defense to **offer** blood testing to DoD firefighters to assess potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as PFAS). In accordance with Reference 2, blood PFAS testing will be offered to DoD firefighters during their annual occupational medicine examination, to newly hired DoD firefighters in order to establish a baseline, and to other DoD personnel who perform firefighting duties as part of their job assignment (e.g., Navy damage control officers),

## **MTF Guidance.**

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- 1.) Provide a copy of the DoD Firefighter PFAS Fact Sheet to the DoD Firefighter prior to or during each initial (new hire) and annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examination. Fact sheets for firefighters and occupational medicine providers are enclosed as Tab A and Tab B, respectively.
- 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. Prior to their annual medical examination, the occupational health clinic will:

i. Verify the DoD Firefighter's identification (Common Access Card), mailing address in the civilian employee medical record, including the electronic health record (EHR) If the firefighter is a new hire and does not have an EHR, then establish a new record in the EHR.

ii. If the firefighter has agreed to participate in blood PFAS testing (i.e., the firefighter has not signed the declination memorandum) the occupational health clinic will:

1. Collect a blood sample from the firefighter per prescribed guidance for blood PFAS sample collection.

2. Order the PFAS blood test<sup>1</sup>:

*\*\*\* For problems, contact the local MTF laboratory \*\*\**

a. Military Health System (MHS) GENESIS

i. Primary Synonym: **PFAS Expanded, S/P**

ii. Ancillary Synonyms: **PFAS (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 declination 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,

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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 **82542** is built into the DoD Standard Test File for 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, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) primary codes:
      - 1. **MENBA (Mission Essential Non-Benefit Activities) Z02.1** ( Encounter for pre-employment examination), or
      - 2. **MENBA Z01.89** ( Encounter for other administrative examinations), periodic for continued surveillance for occupational workplace exposure), or
    - ii. ICD-10-CM secondary codes:
      - 1. **(CMI) Z13.88** (Encounter for screening for disorder due to exposure to contaminants)
      - 2. **(CMI) Z57.5** (Occupational exposure to toxic agents in other industries) Use if worker declines testing
  - b. In the assessment component of the medical encounter record, the examining healthcare provide must state, "The DoD Firefighter was offered PFAS Blood

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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 blood PFAS test only available in conjunction with the annual DoD Firefighter occupational health examination or new hire baseline testing.
    - iii. Was informed that the occupational health clinic will provide the firefighter their PFAS blood test results when the laboratory report is available.
    - iv. Was informed that:
      - 1. Blood PFAS levels are not known to be associated with adverse health outcomes.
      - 2. Currently, there is no clinically relevant treatment known to reduce blood PFAS levels.
      - 3. If the firefighter should choose any follow-on health care or medical evaluations based on the PFAS laboratory result, it must be sought from their private healthcare provider at their own expense.
- 6.) The Occupational Health Clinic must provide the Firefighter a copy of their PFAS laboratory report, describing results reported in nanograms per liter (ng/mL), and a copy of the completed Memorandum, Subject: Results of Your Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Blood Testing. The occupational health clinic should send the records via the usual method used to inform firefighters of occupational health exam results, or the 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 blood PFAS test results and memorandum were provided to the DoD Firefighter.

**Occupational Health Clinic healthcare providers may locate a copy of policies, fact sheets, 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](#). The EDC will provide a CAC-accessible web address where the DoD Firefighter will be expected to read the Firefighter Fact Sheet, accept or decline blood PFAS testing (complete and sign the declination memorandum).**

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