

University of California, Davis
Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
Medical Surveillance Program
For Those Involved in Dismantling Clandestine Labs

Occupational Health Services

Occupational Medicine physicians from the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of California, Davis, offer a comprehensive range of occupational health services for agencies involved with hazardous materials, including those involved in dismantling clandestine illegal drug manufacturing laboratories in Northern and Southern California. We offer a broad range of services, both diagnostic and therapeutic, for work-related illnesses such as respiratory problems resulting from fire, smoke inhalation and other hazardous material exposure. Examinations are provided on-site with our mobile medical unit or in rooms at your own facility. On-site examinations have proven very popular with many agencies because of the savings in not having to pay time and travel for employees going to a distant clinic to participate in the program. Employees we test are notified about laboratory abnormalities and receive a follow-up letter. We can design an appropriate, affordable program to fit your needs and can tailor services to organizations of all sizes.

Specially Tailored Programs

Occupational Medicine physicians look at the types of responses your Clan Lab Team makes and recommend a surveillance program based on actual risks. Services can be offered as a contractual package, which is developed specifically to meet the needs of your organization. Individually tailored programs help recognize and control hazards at the worksite and assist in complying with OSHA regulations and current laws. On-site physicals offer a convenient and cost-effective approach to employee health evaluations. We will be happy to answer your questions or arrange an appointment to discuss health and safety for your organization. Working together, we can improve employee health and design a safer, more productive work environment.

A Variety of Services

We screen and monitor employees for hazardous substances and respiratory fitness. Additional testing can be arranged such as hearing tests, hepatitis B vaccinations, blood lead, cholinesterase, treadmills and testing for tuberculosis. We can design and evaluate workplace health programs, providing consultation to identify and correct workplace hazards. Arrangements can be made for the services of industrial hygienists and technical specialists on a consulting basis. We can provide health and safety education and can also arrange for respiratory fit testing. Finally, we can provide disability and Workers' Compensation determinations at our outpatient clinic at UCDCMC.

The Physical Examination and Breathing Test

Physical examinations are provided with special regard for substances in the workplace known to increase the incidence of disease (asbestos, chemical solvents, hazardous waste, heavy metals and respiratory irritants). On the questionnaire, we look for a history of previous respiratory disease or symptoms pertaining to respiratory fitness. We also look at any history of coronary disease and recent symptoms.

The examination includes taking vital signs (blood pressure and pulse), as well as the pulse increase from rest and then after exercise. We look for lesions of the mouth and upper airway, integrity of tympanic membranes, and deformities of the face that would prevent proper fitting of a respirator. We examine for the presence of abnormal lung sounds and abnormal heart sounds or murmurs. We check for enlargement of the liver and finally, we look for evidence of peripheral neuropathy.

Laboratory tests provide annual surveillance for anemia and solvent toxicity. Included in the tests we order is a chemistry lipid panel which screens for heart disease.

The breathing test (spirometry) provides a baseline pulmonary function, and we review previous records for changes in pulmonary function over time. Spirometry testing also provides clues regarding presence of asthma or dust-related disease.

In addition, as indicated by the judgment of the reviewing physician, an employee with risk of coronary artery disease may be requested to complete an exercise tolerance test (ETT). Some risk factors for heart disease that might indicate the need for further testing include patients over the age of 45 or 50, patients with a family history of myocardial infarction (heart attack) before age 60, smokers, and patients with diabetes or hypertension. We can order an ETT through the UC Davis Medical Center. Alternatively, this examination may be obtained in your locale and the results forwarded to us.

Faculty Physicians

As medical specialists in occupational disorders, UC Davis physicians are expert in screening workers for medical problems and evaluating their exposure to occupational and environmental hazards. Physicians are board-certified in Internal Medicine and Occupational Medicine. Each is a specialist in public health, toxicology, industrial hygiene, epidemiology and preventive medicine. In fact, through research efforts, UC Davis physicians have gained national recognition as experts in occupational and environmental epidemiology.

Physical Examination and Evaluation

We provide medical surveillance services for narcotic agents involved with hazardous materials. Dismantling clandestine illegal drug manufacturing laboratories requires use of a respirator, and the primary purpose of the health surveillance is to confirm that all participants are able to function with respiratory equipment and that there have been no adverse reactions or toxicity due to chemical exposures.

We recommend the following examinations annually for narcotic agents who work with clandestine laboratories:

- * *Medical and work history*
- * *Physical examination*
- * *Spirometry (breathing test)*
- * *Laboratory tests including a chemistry lipid panel and a complete blood count*
- * *Physician's evaluation*

Employees should receive the tests noted above each year.

UC Davis Medical Center

Patients who participate in our screening program are referred to our outpatient clinic at the UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) when follow-up care is indicated. The outpatient clinic is a comprehensive, regional facility for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of illness and disease from occupational and environmental exposures. Physicians evaluate and treat occupational conditions, including acute or chronic exposures to toxic, hazardous substances. In addition, close affiliations with specialists at UCDMC provide an excellent referral network for additional consultations and health care. UCDMC treats more complex illnesses than any other hospital in the area and has the most comprehensive 24-hour emergency treatment program in the Sacramento Valley.

For More Information

Please call UC Davis, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Medical Surveillance Program at (530) 752-1281.