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| **Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)****20 Feb 2020**

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| **Identification Of Novel PsychoActive Substances (IONA)****Instructions for Sample Collection and Analysis by FEWS Forensic Providers** |
| **Introduction**In cases where an NPS sample (part used or unopened product) is found where it is reasonable to believe/assume the patient has used the same, then the sample may be submitted for forensic drug analysis, free-of-charge to the hospital or IONA. This chemical analysis will be facilitated by the Forensic Early Warning System (FEWS) team at Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl and the result will be considered alongside those obtained from blood and urine analysis in Newcastle.**Instructions:**  |

1. **Substance found by IONA member**

A sample/substance may be found on the patient or provided by a witness (friend/family).

1. **Substance placed in evidence bag.**

Theidentified substance should be placed in an evidence bag (provided by Dstl, FEWS team).

1. **Fill in the details on the form in the evidence bag**.

The evidence bag will have a pre-printed label on the front – this does not need altered. Complete the form inside the evidence bag with:

* The IONA reference number so it can be related to a patient
* Any description of the sample or packaging
* The date the sample was found
* Any other relevant details about the sample

Seal the evidence bag ready for transport.

1. **Contact the FEWS team at Dstl to notify that sample is ready for collection.**

Dstl should be notified when the sample is ready forcollection by emailing

PSG-FEWS@dstl.gov.uk

Details of collection address and contact telephone number should be provided in the email. The FEWS team will arrange a courier and confirm date and time of collection with the IONA member.

1. **An IONA member will need to be present to hand over the sample to the courier at the arranged time**
2. **The sample will be analysed and the FEWS team will send the results to the IONA PI**



If there are any issues, please contact:

Carl Fletcher on 01980 954940 or

Laura Hussey on 01980 953789