

**Port-a-count Fit Testing Instruments  
Protocol for Instruments Purchased with HRSA Grant Funds  
January 2007**

Respiratory fit testing is a responsibility of employers to ensure that workers are protected from potentially hazardous chemicals and biological organisms to which they may be exposed in the line of duty. Healthcare workers may be exposed to tuberculosis, chickenpox, chemically contaminated victims, bioterrorism agents, and newly developing infectious agents. The current CDC recommendation for protection against an anticipated pandemic influenza virus is that healthcare workers utilize N95 respirators for protection. In order to increase the number of healthcare workers and first responders fit tested and to increase the sensitivity of fit testing processes the North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Healthcare Association have expended Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program grant funds for the acquisition of ten Port-a-count qualitative fit testing instruments. The following are protocols for use of the equipment.

- Port-a count instruments are located at the following hospitals:
  - Altru, Grand Forks
  - Merit Care, Fargo
  - Innovis, Fargo
  - Jamestown Hospital, Jamestown
  - St. Alexius, Bismarck
  - Medcenter One, Bismarck
  - St. Joseph's, Dickinson
  - Mercy Medical Center, Williston
  - Trinity, Minot
  - Mercy Hospital, Devils Lake
- Port-a count instruments are available for use by all hospitals, public health units, EMS agencies, and other first responders at no cost. Hosting hospitals may not charge for the use of the equipment.
- To schedule use of a Port-a-count instrument contact the HRSA grant representative or person responsible for the fit-testing program at one of the hosting hospitals.
- Port-a-count consumable supplies are currently purchased with HRSA grant funds. As long as consumable supplies are purchased with grant funds hosting hospitals may not charge other agencies for consumable supplies and should coordinate the ordering of additional consumables and billing with Karen Haskins at NDHA. (701-224-9732)
- If a hosting hospital provides the service of fit-testing employees of another agency, the hosting hospital may charge for staff time to provide the service. There is no obligation on the part of hosting hospitals to provide fit testing services for other hospitals or agencies.
- Hosting hospitals are responsible for coordinating a schedule for use of the port-a-count instrument and maintaining a record of the location of the instrument as other agencies move the equipment from the hosting hospital.

- Hosting hospitals will coordinate with Karen Haskins at NDHA for the annual maintenance and calibration of the equipment by the product company.
- Training on fit testing using the Port-a-count instrument is available on the ND Department of Health website at [www.health.state.nd.us](http://www.health.state.nd.us).