

Notification of Drug Testing Changes

Our drug and alcohol testing policy requires that testing take place at a laboratory certified by the US Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS). DHHS-certified laboratories are changing the cutoffs for amphetamines and cocaine effective October 1, 2010. We will be changing our policy to reflect the new procedures. Meanwhile, this page is meant to notify you of the changes in laboratory testing.

Please review the following and sign below. You may have a copy of this page for your records if you wish.

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What is changing?

- Amphetamine screening and confirmation cutoffs will be lower (more sensitive). Amphetamine testing may now include “ecstasy” (methylenedioxymethamphetamine or MDMA) and its metabolites
- Cocaine screening and confirmation cutoffs will be lower (more sensitive).
- Specimens which are positive for opiates may also be tested for heroin (6-acetyl morphine or 6AM).

Why are the cutoffs changing?

Cutoff concentrations for amphetamines and cocaine were established many years ago and were based on analytical methods available at the time. Certified labs can now reliably test for these compounds at lower concentrations without risk of false positive results. Lower cutoffs will enable labs to detect these critical drug classes in specimens that previously might have been reported as “negative” if the drug was present, but at a level below the old cutoff. (adapted from Legacy Lab Services, Portland, OR)

The following table shows the new cutoffs our lab will use effective 10/1/10.

Initial test analyte	Initial test cutoff concentration	Confirmatory test analyte	Confirmatory test cutoff concentration
Cocaine metabolites.....	150 ng/mL.....	Benzoyllecgonine.....	100 ng/mL
Opiate metabolites			
Codeine/Morphine ¹	2000 ng/mL.....	Codeine.....	2000 ng/mL
		Morphine.....	2000 ng/mL
6-Acetylmorphine.....	10 ng/mL.....	6-Acetylmorphine.....	10 ng/mL
Amphetamines			
AMP/MAMP ²	500 ng/mL.....	Amphetamine.....	250 ng/mL
		Methamphetamine ³	250 ng/mL
MDMA ⁴	500 ng/mL.....	MDMA.....	250 ng/mL
		MDA ⁵	250 ng/mL
		MDEA ⁶	250 ng/mL

¹ Morphine is the target analyte for codeine/morphine testing.
² Methamphetamine is the target analyte for amphetamine/methamphetamine testing.
³ To be reported positive for methamphetamine, a specimen must also contain amphetamine at a concentration equal to or greater than 100 ng/mL.
⁴ Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).
⁵ Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA).
⁶ Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA).

The cutoffs for other drugs will remain the same.

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By signing below, I acknowledge notification of the changes in the company policy to reflect DHHS-certified laboratory testing changes.

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Date