

# Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

## Changes to Urine Drugs of Abuse Screening for Inpatients

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May 6, 2015:

The St Paul's Hospital Laboratory is expanding its list of screening tests included in the routine urine drug screen test for inpatients. The major change is the inclusion of the urine oxycodone and methadone metabolite tests. There will now be only one order code (Urine Drugs of Abuse Screen) for both emergency and inpatients, and it will include all of the tests in the table below.

| Drug Class                  | Test type<br>(positive threshold in urine) | Test is sensitive for these drugs               | Test has limited or no ability to detect these drugs |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Opiates</b>              | Opiate class<br>(>300 µg/L)                | Heroin, morphine, codeine, hydromorphone        | Fentanyl, Oxycodone                                  |
| <b>Benzodiazepines</b>      | Benzodiazepine class<br>(>200 µg/L)        | Most benzodiazepines                            |  |
| <b>Cocaine</b>              | Metabolite<br>(Benzoylecgonine, >150 µg/L) | Metabolite and partial detection of parent drug |  |
| <b>Amphetamines</b>         | Amphetamine class<br>(>500 µg/L)           | D-Amphetamine, MDA, MDMA                        | Methylphenidate, Pseudoephedrine                     |
| <b>Cannabinoid</b>          | THC and metabolite<br>(>50 µg/L)           | THC   | Cannabidiol  |
| <b>Methadone Metabolite</b> | Metabolite<br>(EDDP, >100 µg/L)            | EDDP  | Does not detect parent drug                          |
| <b>Oxycodone</b>            | Parent drug & metabolite<br>(>100 µg/L)    | Oxycodone & Oxymorphone                         |  |

In all cases, these tests are considered screens with limitations of detection and specificity. Therefore, if relevant to clinical management, unexpected results can be confirmed by contacting the lab to request a confirmatory test for a specific medication or medication class. These requests will be processed at the provincial toxicology lab, typically with a turnaround time of 5 work days.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions:



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