

Drugs of Abuse

Synonyms

Clinical Indication

Drugs of abuse analysis is only offered as a clinical service for the treatment of drug dependence or rarely in the management of patients with suspected overdose.

Analysis is not suitable for medico-legal purposes such as child custody or employment screening. In such cases, independent private laboratories offer a service that provides 'chain of custody' and results that are legally defensible (we do not recommend any specific laboratory).

Spiked drink analysis: if alleged incident has occurred within the past 48 hours, a urine sample in a plain (white top) universal may be sent to the laboratory for storage and the patient should be advised to contact the police. If the alleged incident is more than 48 hours ago, any drugs that might be used in spiking drinks will have already been metabolised and excreted so screening is not worthwhile. However, the patient should still be advised to contact the police.

Part of Profile / See Also

Amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, opiates, methadone metabolites and buprenorphine.

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referral test: If specific criteria is met then samples are analysed by Synlab laboratory services (Abergavenny). [9301](#)

Turnaround Time

2 weeks

Patient Preparation

None required.

Sample Requirements

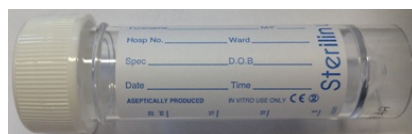
Specimen Type

Urine

Volume

5 ml

Container



White capped plain universal container

Reference Range & Units

Cut off levels for Primary Screen (Negative):

Opiates <300 ng/mL

Amphetamines <300 ng/mL

Cocaine <300 ng/mL

Cannabis <50 ng/mL

Benzodiazepines <200 ng/mL

Methadone <300 ng/mL

Buprenorphine <5 ng/mL

Interferences

Samples with very low creatinine will not be analysed.

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Any component of the screen that is measured to be above the cut off level will be further tested by LCMS for confirmation. Interpretive comments are provided by the referral laboratory for all LCMS results.

References

Test code

UDRG

Lab Handling

Store primary tube in the referrals rack at 4°C. Samples are sent daily by Royal Mail to Synlab, Abergavenny.



9301
Accredited to
ISO 15189:2012