

MRO Update
Vol. 25, JAN – DEC 2019
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Adulteration

- » June – Woman Overdoses on Niacin
- » Dec – Specimen Adulteration and Substitution Are Now Crimes (UT)
- » Dec – Donor Who Tampered With Urine Can't Prove Disability Discrimination (OR)

Alcohol

- » May – Police Officer Takes Breathalyzer Test During DUI Training; Registers 0.08

Amphetamines

- » Aug/Sept – Metoprolol Can Cause Positive Amphetamines and MDMA Immunoassay Results
- » Dec – Double Entendre Raises Eyebrows (SD)

Cannabidiol (CBD)

- » May – CBD Companies Face Charges After Marijuana-Positive Drug Test (NY)
- » June – Possible Conversion of CBD to THCA at the Laboratory
- » Aug/Sept – SAMHSA: Don't Accept CBD As an Explanation for Marijuana-Positive Drug Tests
- » Aug/Sept – DOD: Military Services - Don't Use CBD
- » Oct – CBD and THC
- » Dec – FDA Warns CBD Manufacturers to Stop Making Health Claims
- » Dec – CBD Studies
- » Dec – CBD Manufacturers Sued for False Marketing (CA)
- » Dec – Class Suit Over CBD Miss-Labeled as THC-Free (IL)
- » Dec – Worker Says She was Fired for Positive Test Caused by CBD (NC)

Cocaine

- » Apr – False-Positive Serum Cocaine Screening Tests in Patients with Renal Failure

Collection Procedures, Shy Bladder

- » Jan – Collector Fired for Asking, Is Anyone Here for a Drug Test? (PA)
- » May – Shy Bladder Trucker Loses Disability Discrimination Claim (OH)
- » June – Woman Alleges Collector Made Her Expose Her Breasts (FL)
- » June – Shy Bladder Is Not a Disability (WA)
- » Oct – A Shy Bladder Evaluation Gone Bad (CA)

Department of Health and Human Services

- » Jan – Update on Drug Testing Procedures
- » June – Oral Fluid, Hair, and Fentanyl
- » Dec – Initiatives at HHS, DOT

Department of Transportation

- » Jan – 2019 Random Testing Rates Increase for FTA and USCG
- » Jan – Audits of Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs Underway

- » Jan – Update on Drug Testing Procedures
- » Apr – Clearinghouse Website
- » Apr – Audit Finds Gaps in AMTRAK's Drug and Alcohol Programs
- » May – Use Term "Opioids" instead of "Opiates"
- » May – Bill to Test Drivers for Methadone
- » June – Can MRO Assistants Enter Results into the Clearinghouse?
- » July – Trucker Who Killed Seven Motorcyclists Shouldn't Have Had License
- » Aug/Sept – Clearinghouse Updates
- » Oct – Clearinghouse News
- » Dec – Clearinghouse Goes Live on January 6, 2020
- » Dec – Initiatives at HHS, DOT

Drug Abuse Trends

- » Jan – Starbucks Installing Needle-Disposal Boxes in Some Bathrooms
- » Aug/Sept – National Survey Finds Lower Rates of Prescription Drug Misuse

Drug Testing Trends

- » Jan – School District Can Drug Test Substitute Teachers (FL)
- » Apr – Quest Reports Increase in Marijuana-Positives
- » May – Pharmacy Schools that Drug Test Have Fewer Drug/Alcohol Incidents
- » June – DOJ Sues Pain Management Provider for Excessive Urine Drug Testing
- » July – Increasing Rates of Pre-Employment Drug and Alcohol Testing
- » July – Supreme Court Allows Police to Test Unconscious Driver's Blood (WI)
- » Aug/Sept – Employer, Not Service Agent, Is Responsible for Its Noncompliance (NC)
- » Aug/Sept – Basketball Player's Drug Test Says He's Pregnant
- » Oct – Retail Workers Have the Highest Rates of Drug-Positives
- » Nov – A Drug Test is Not a Medical Exam, Even if It Reveals a Legal Drug (OK)

Hair Testing

- » Jan – Hair Club for Horses
- » Feb/March – Detection in Hair After Last Use of Amphetamines, Marijuana, Tramadol
- » July – Concentrations of Opioids and Their Metabolites in Hair
- » Oct – SAMHSA: Scientific Concerns Delay Hair-Testing Rule
- » Nov – Wash Procedures Fail to Clean Cocaine- and Methamphetamine-Contaminated Hair
- » Nov – State's High Court: Positive Hair Test Does Not Prove Drug Use (MA)

Laboratories

- » Feb/March – Lab Test is Admissible without Live Testimony (KS)
- » Feb/March – Lab Owes a Duty to Donor (SC)
- » Oct – Urine Drug Concentrations Drop With 24-Hour Contact With Test Strips
- » Dec – Study Highlights Variation in Immunoassay Reliability

Marijuana

- » Jan – Daily Marijuana Users More Than Twice as Likely to Lose Their Jobs
- » Jan – Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome – Three Deaths
- » Jan – Medical Marijuana User May Proceed with Lawsuit Against Employer (DE)
- » Feb/March – Marijuana Should Not Be Prescribed to Treat Opioid Addiction
- » Feb/March – Commentary: MRO Reviews of Medical Marijuana-Positives
- » Feb/March – Firing Violated State Medical Marijuana Act (AZ)
- » Feb/March – Medical Marijuana Law Doesn't Protect Applicant (MI)
- » Feb/March – Medical Marijuana Use Doesn't Protect Against Firing for Positive Drug Test (PA)
- » Feb/March – Trucker Acquitted After Judge Tosses Out THC Blood Test
- » Apr – City Restricts Drug Testing for Marijuana (NYC)
- » Apr – Negligible Passive Exposure to Marijuana at Stadium Concerts
- » May – Marijuana Use Could Bar Immigrants from Citizenship
- » May – Job Protection for Medical Marijuana Users
- » May – Marijuana Concentrations Are Higher After Vaping than Smoking
- » May – Employer May Have to Accommodate Medical Marijuana User (NJ)
- » June – Job Protection for Marijuana Users (IL, NV)
- » June – Medical Marijuana Does Not Reduce Opioid Deaths
- » June – Possession of Medical Marijuana Card Does Not Prove Use (HI)
- » July – Job Protection for Medical Marijuana Users (NJ)
- » July – Employer Survey: Unprepared for Marijuana
- » Nov – Lung Injuries Associated With Vaping THC Products
- » Nov – Marijuana-Positive Post-Accident Drug Test Did Not Prove Causation (OK)
- » Dec – Workplace Testing for Marijuana is (Probably) Allowed, Again (IL)
- » Dec – Prolonged Urine Positivity in Young People Who Suddenly Stop Using Marijuana

Medical Review Officers

- » Jan – ACOEM's MRO Fast Track Course to be Held March 2-3, 2019
- » May – MROs: Six-Month Cutoff for Old Prescriptions
- » May – Donor Should Have Presented Explanations to MRO
- » July – Do MROs Need Multiple State Licenses?
- » Nov – HHS Update on Old Prescriptions; Safety Concerns

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- » Aug/Sept – Proposed Updates to Drug-Testing Rule Have Been Published

Opioids

- » Feb/March – Prescription Opioids Associated with Fatal Car Crashes
- » Feb/March – Curb Heroin in Plants (C.H.I.P.): A Union-Led Intervention from the 1970s
- » May – Fentanyl Found in Many Cocaine- and Methamphetamine-Positive Specimens
- » June – Opioid-Diverting Nurse Likely Infected Patients with HCV
- » June – Texas Nurse Diverted Opioids, May Have Transmitted HIV
- » July – Suboxone Marketer Reaches Record \$1.4B Settlement

Oral Fluid Testing

- » Nov – HHS: Oral Fluid Mandatory Guidelines
- » Dec – Correction: Urine or Oral Fluid

Overdoses

- » Jan – Exposure to 9/11 As a Risk Factor for Drug/Alcohol-Related Death
- » Feb/March – \$15 Million Lawsuit by Employee Who Overdosed at Work
- » July – Overdose Deaths Fell in 2018
- » July – Employer Survey: Unprepared for Opioids

Pain Management Drug Testing

- » Nov – Study Describes Practices After Inconsistent Pain Management Tests

Refusal to Test

- » Jan – Fired for Refusal to Test, Not Discrimination (MA)

Student Drug Testing

- » Jan – College's Mandatory Drug Testing Ruled Unconstitutional (MO)

Third Party Administrator

- » May – Winnipeg's Precision Health Falsified Trucker Drug Tests
- » May – A&J Lab Collection Falsified Child Custody Drug Tests

Unemployment Benefits

- » Jan – Unemployment Benefit Rule Change Would Let States Decide Who to Drug Test
- » Oct – States Can Expand Drug Testing for Unemployment Benefits

Workers' Compensation Benefits

- » Oct – Cannot Use an Unconfirmed Positive Result to Deny Benefits (LA)