

ACOEM's *MRO Update* Newsletter Index to Articles

Vol. 21 / January – December 2015

www.acoem.org

Buprenorphine

- » **April** – *Urine Testing for Transdermal Buprenorphine*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Expanded Access to Buprenorphine*

Codeine

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Borrowed and Authorized, Use of Codeine (IL)*

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- » **Jan/Feb** – *2015 Random Testing Rates*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drug/Alcohol Clearinghouse Rule Expected in Sept. 2015*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Pipeline Rule Modified per DOT's Part 40 Procedures*
- » **April** – *Procedures Now Allow Electronic CCFs*
- » **August** – *Updated Employer Guidelines*
- » **August** – *Public Interest Exclusion #2 - Elizabeth Pope/Eastgate Lab*
- » **Dec** – *Reminder About Electronic CCFs*
- » **Dec** – *Driver Coercion Rule Covers Drug and Alcohol Tests*
- » **Dec** – *Drug/Alcohol Clearinghouse Rule Expected in March 2016*
- » **Dec** – *Highway Bill Authorizes Motor Carrier Hair Testing*

Disability Discrimination

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drug-Test Related Disqualification is Not an ADA Concern (LA)*
- » **May** – *Donor Loses Discrimination Claim Over Shy Bladder (OH)*
- » **Aug** – *Driver Says His Addiction Prevented Him From Seeking Help (Alberta, CA)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Drug Tests Are Not Medical Exams Under ADA (PA)*
- » **Nov** – *Fired For Positive Drug Test, Not Disability (GA)*
- » **Dec** – *Fired For Positive Drug Test, Not Disability (AL)*

Drug Abuse Trends

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Heroin Deaths Up for Third Consecutive Year*
- » **May** – *One in 12 Workers on Drugs*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *More Americans Used Marijuana in 2014*

Drug Testing/Testing Trends

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Bill Would Require MRO Review of Obstetric Drug Tests (NY)*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Little Evidence that Drug Testing Helps Manage Patients on Pain Medicines*
- » **March** – *Two Thirds of Employers Have Drug/Alcohol Testing Programs*
- » **April** – *Pediatrics Group Opposes School Drug Testing*
- » **June** – *Positive Drug Test Rate Increased in 2013 and 2014*
- » **June** – *Matching Urine to Donor by Tracer Capsules*
- » **Aug** – *Insurers Limit Drug Testing by Programs Treating Opioid Addiction*
- » **Aug** – *Video Game League Announces Random Drug Testing*
- » **Aug** – *Shakespeare's Pipes Test Positive for Marijuana and cocaine*

- » **Aug** – *State Law Lets the Employer Select Treatment After a Positive Test (MN)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Employees Can Have a Union Rep Present During Drug Test (CA, NY)*
- » **Nov** – *Drug Testing of Construction Workers (Australia)*
- » **Nov** – *Drug Testing of Workers' Comp Patients (ND)*
- » **Nov** – *Millennium Penalized for Alleged Overbilling of Clinical Drug Tests*
- » **Nov** – *Rising Costs of Drug Testing in Workers' Comp*
- » **Dec** – *College Can Drug Test Entire Student Body*

Drugs, Driving and Other Impairment

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drugs Linked to Fatal Crash in Oklahoma*
- » **March** – *How to Determine if Drug Use is Safe? (Coast Guard)*
- » **March** – *Drugged Driving on the Rise*
- » **March** – *Driving Study Finds Risk from Being Young and Male, Not from Using Marijuana*
- » **June** – *Driver Crashes Bus After Allegedly Submitting Chicken Soup for Drug Test*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Recent Marijuana Use is Associated with Motor Vehicle Fatalities*
- » **Dec** – *Unsuccessful Challenge to Driving Under the Influence of Marijuana (OH)*
- » **Dec** – *Driver Coercion Rule Covers Drug and Alcohol Tests*

Electronic Custody and Control Forms (CCF)

- » **April** – *Procedures Now Allow Electronic CCFs*
- » **Dec** – *Reminder About Electronic CCFs*

Hair Testing

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Donor Sues Collector for Bad Haircut (OH)*
- » **June** – *Moving Towards Hair Testing*
- » **Aug** – *DTAB Supports Hair Testing*
- » **Aug** – *Amended Law Allows Hair Tests (LA)*
- » **Aug** – *Oxycodone Metabolite May Go Undetected in Hair*
- » **Aug** – *Court (Again) Rejects Racial Bias Claim Against Hair Tests (MA)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Congress Tries to Fast-Track Hair Testing*
- » **Nov** – *Hair Testing Bill Likely to Go to White House*
- » **Nov** – *Cannabinoids Enter Hair by External Mechanisms*
- » **Nov** – *Handling Marijuana Gets THC in Hair*
- » **Dec** – *Highway Bill Authorizes Motor Carrier Hair Testing*

Laboratories

- » **April** – *Three New Guidance Documents (NLCP)*

Marijuana

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Judge to Rule on Whether Marijuana Belongs in Schedule I (CA)*
- » **March** – *Marijuana-Using Employee Gets a Marinol Prescription*
- » **March** – *Employer Must Pay for Injured Worker's Medical Marijuana (NM)*
- » **April** – *Bill Would Move Marijuana to Schedule II (Congress)*
- » **April** – *Marijuana Remains Unacceptable for Federal Drug Tests (SAMHSA)*
- » **April** – *ACOEM/AOHN Guidance on Marijuana in the Workplace*

- » **April** – Federal Judge Declines to Rule on Rescheduling of Marijuana
- » **May** – Reporting of Marijuana-Positives Due to Use Per State Law
- » **June** – Marijuana Remains Off-Limits for Federal Workers
- » **June** – Colorado Supreme Court Upholds Firing for Medical Marijuana (CO)
- » **June** – False-Positive Marijuana Test Result in a Disabled Young Girl
- » **July** – Limited Evidence that Marijuana is an Effective Medicine
- » **July** – Extreme Passive Exposure to Marijuana Can Cause Positive Oral Fluid Test Results
- » **July** – Workers’ Comp Covers Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **Nov** – Handling Marijuana Gets THC in Hair
- » **Dec** – FMCSA Should Consider Testing for Synthetic Marijuana (NTSB)
- » **Dec** – Employer Can Fire Medical Marijuana User (WA)
- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

Medical Review Officers

- » **Jan/Feb** – Borrowed and Authorized, Use of Codeine (IL)
- » **March** – Reporting a Changed Result
- » **May** – Reporting of Marijuana-Positives Due to Use Per State Law
- » **May** – MRO Prevails in Split Decision
- » **June** – Verification Using the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- » **Sept/Oct** – Is Medical Marijuana an Acceptable Explanation for a Non-Dot Test?
- » **Sept/Oct** – About One-Fifth of ASAM Members Are MRO-Certified
- » **Nov** – Old Prescriptions
- » **Nov** – Primary Result Valid Despite Failure to Test Split (IL)
- » **Dec** – Advanced Practitioners as MROs in Iowa
- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

National Safety Council

- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies

National Laboratory of Certification Program (NLCP)

- » **April** – Three New Guidance Documents (NLCP)

Opioids

- » **Jan/Feb** – Little Evidence that Opioids Work for Chronic Pain
- » **Jan/Feb** – High Rates of Opioid Use by Disability Recipients
- » **Jan/Feb** – Physician Dispensing Associated with Increased Opioid Use
- » **March** – Trend Toward Stronger Opioids
- » **April** – Failure to Respond to Drug Tests Showing Opioid Non-Compliance
- » **April** – Almost One-Fourth of Opioids Prescribed for Chronic Pain Are Misused
- » **April** – Urine Testing for Transdermal Buprenorphine
- » **May** – ER Doctors Prescribing Fewer Opioids
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse
- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies
- » **Aug** – Washington State Updates Its Opioid Guidelines
- » **Sept/Oct** – Expanded Access to Buprenorphine

Oral Fluid Testing

- » **Sept/Oct** – Poppy Seeds and Opiate-Positive Oral Fluid Tests
- » **Dec** – Positive Oral Fluid Tests From Vicks®

Poppy Seeds

- » **Sept/Oct** – Poppy Seeds and Opiate-Positive Oral Fluid Tests

Prescriptions

- » **April** – Almost One-Fourth of Opioids Prescribed for Chronic Pain Are Misused
- » **June** – Verification Using the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse
- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies
- » **Nov** – Old Prescriptions

Random Testing

- » **Jan/Feb** – 2015 Random Testing Rates
- » **July** – Emotional Distress from Random Drug Test (CA)

Reasonable Suspicion

- » **Sept/Oct** – Employee’s Alcohol-Related Absence Was Reasonable Suspicion (IN)

State Drug Testing Laws

- » **July** – Drug Testing Regulations Apply Only to Urine (CT)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- » **May** – HHS Proposes Oral Fluid Testing and Hydrocodone and Oxycodone Tests
- » **June** – Moving Towards Hair Testing
- » **July** – ACOEM Comments on Oral Fluids and Expanded Opioids
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse

Versed

- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

Vicks® VapoInhaler™

- » **Dec** – Positive Oral Fluid Tests From Vicks®

Workers’ Compensation

- » **Jan/Feb** – Positive Post-Accident Test Establishes Intoxication (LA)
- » **March** – Drug Test Results Not Protected by HIPAA (LA)
- » **March** – Employer Must Pay for Injured Worker’s Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **July** – Workers’ Comp Covers Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **Nov** – Drug Testing of Workers’ Comp Patients (ND)
- » **Nov** – Rising Costs of Drug Testing in Workers’ Comp

Back issues are \$15 each based on availability. Call ACOEM Publications at 847/818-1800, ext. 387, noting which issues and provide a credit card number (Master Card, Amex, Visa or Discover). To purchase sets/complete years (10 issues) of print copies from 2007-2015 (\$150 per year), visit the web-based Product Catalog within “Shop ACOEM” in MRO Resources category at www.acoem.org. Indexes for these years are available for viewing or printout through the Catalog or can be found within the newsletter’s descriptive information in the web site’s “Knowledge Centers” in the “Medical Review Officer” area. For years prior to 2007, call to check on availability of indexes and issues.