

ACOEM's *MRO Update* Newsletter Index to Articles

Vol. 22 / January – December 2016

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Addiction Medicine

- » Mar – Addiction Medicine Is Now an ABMS Specialty

Adulteration, Cheating

- » Feb – Specimens with Abnormal Color Still Get Tested (NLCP)
- » Mar – Laboratories Should Report Abnormal Color (Letter to the Editor)
- » Mar – Abnormal Color Is No Reason to Test Bottle B (Letter to the Editor)
- » Apr/May – Why Don't Laboratories Report Abnormal Specimen Color? (Forum)
- » Jun – "Running" Man Ordered to Pay Costs After Falsifying Evidence (Australia)
- » Jul – Collector Took Bribes for Negative Workplace Drug Tests

Alcohol

- » Jan – Alcohol-Related Deaths Reach a 35-Year High
- » Feb – About One-Fifth of Lawyers Report Problem Drinking
- » Feb – Truck Driver Blames Auto-Brewery Syndrome for Fish Kill

Amphetamines

- » Apr/May – Employer Pays Bonuses in Methamphetamine

Clearinghouse (FMCSA)

- » Jun – National Clearinghouse Rule Expected in August 2016
- » Nov – Final Clearinghouse Rule Pending
- » Dec – Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Rule

Confidentiality

- » Feb – Confidentiality of Medical and Drug Test Records (Forum)
- » Nov – Employee Drug Test Results Not Confidential (PA)

Dilute

- » Aug/Sep – Specimens for Follow-up Tests Are More Dilute
- » Nov – Reporting Negative-Dilute Results

Disability Discrimination

- » Jun – Fired for Medication-Related Impairment, Not Disability (FL)
- » Jun – DOT Physical and Drug Test Create Confusion (SC)
- » Aug/Sep – Employer Should Have Let Dialysis Patient Take a Non-Urine Drug Test (NC)

Drug Abuse Trends

- » Oct – Almost Half of Americans Took Psychotherapeutic Meds in 2015

Drug Testing Trends

- » Feb – Baseline Drug Test Deters Follow-Up by Pain

Patients

- » Feb – European Workplace Drug Testing Guidelines Updated
- » Apr/May – Drug Testing of Surgical Techs and Assistants (CO)
- » Oct – Third Consecutive Year of Increased Positive Rates

Drug Use and Impairment

- » Jan – Insurer Holds Employer Liable for Its Drug Abusing Employee (AL)
- » Mar – Driver Declared Imminent Hazard for Failed Drug Tests (FMCSA)
- » Mar – Employer Can Require Driver to Disclose Medication Use (UT)
- » Apr/May – A Forklift Operator on Methadone (Forum)
- » Apr/May – MRO Report is Sufficient for License Revocation (WA)
- » Jun – Studies Find Increase in Marijuana-Related Crashes, But Not Support for Blood Test Limit
- » Jun – Jury Awards Millions for Accident from Impaired Driving (IL)
- » Jul – Truck Driver an Imminent Hazard to Public (TN)
- » Aug/Sep – Vicodin Use Blamed for Houston Area Truck Crash

Federal Railroad Administration

- » Jul – Testing Expanded to Include Track Maintenance Workers
- » Oct – Rise in Positive Drug Tests of U.S. Railroad Workers
- » Nov – Regulators Reject Petition to Delay Expanded Testing (FRA)

Federal Transit Administration

- » Feb – Annual Conference (FTA)

DNA Testing

- » Jan – Employees Awarded \$2.2M for Illegal DNA Tests (GA)
- » Jul – Court Upholds DOT's "No DNA Testing" Rule (DC)

Hair Testing

- » Jan – Ethnic Hair Products Make Hair More Susceptible to Environmental Drug Residues
- » Mar – Hair Testing of Commercial Drivers (Brazil)
- » Mar – Employee Claims Clinic Mishandled His Hair (LA)
- » Jun – Psychomedics Study Supports Wash Procedures for THCA
- » Oct – FBI Reporting Criteria for Cocaine in Hair
- » Oct – Police Officers Reinstated After Cocaine-Positive Hair Tests (MA)
- » Nov – Trucking Companies Petition for Hair Testing (FMCSA)

Ketamine

- » Apr/May – Veterinarians Test Positive for Ketamine by

Passive Exposure

Kratom

- » Aug/Sep – Kratom Being Added to Schedule I (DEA)

Marijuana

- » Jan – Most Employers Don't Tackle Legal Marijuana Head On
- » Mar – Medical Marijuana User Can be Fired (NM)
- » Mar – Medical Marijuana User Can be Fired (WA)
- » Apr/May – Marijuana Rescheduling Announcement Imminent (DEA)
- » Apr/May – Ambivalence About Testing Pain Patients for Marijuana
- » Jun – Medical Marijuana Law Allows Employers to Continue Testing (OH)
- » Jul – Fall 2016 Vote on Legalizing Recreational Marijuana (CA)
- » Jul – Medical Marijuana Associated with Reduced Prescription Drug Expenditures
- » Aug/Sep – Marijuana Stays in Schedule I (DEA)
- » Aug/Sep – Employer Didn't Follow Its Policy That Allows for Medical Marijuana (CA)
- » Aug/Sep – Ban on Federal Prosecution of Medical Marijuana Cases (CA)
- » Aug/Sep – Fired Employee Blames Delay in Getting Marijuana Card (DE)
- » Aug/Sep – Medical Marijuana Users Can't Buy Guns (NV)
- » Oct – Primary Care Physicians Report Little Concern About Marijuana Use
- » Oct – Employer Can Fire Medical Marijuana User (MA)
- » Oct – Donor's Expert Claims Versed Caused Marijuana-Positive (NC)
- » Nov – Marijuana Wins in 2016 Election
- » Nov – Workplace Testing Deters Use Despite State Legalization

Medical Review Officers

- » Jan – MRO for Public Employer is Protected from Liability (CA)
- » Jul – Narrow Scope of Negligence for Drug Testing Vendor (NY)
- » Nov – Ex-Chiropractor Indicted for Impersonating MRO
- » Dec – A "For Cause" Test Finds an Old Prescription (Forum)

Opioids

- » Jan – Heroin Deaths Up for 4th Consecutive Year
- » Jan – Most Overdose Survivors Are Still Prescribed Opioids
- » Jan – CDC Guidelines for Doctors to Reduce Opioid Prescriptions
- » Feb – Drop in Hydrocodone Prescriptions After Drug Rescheduled
- » Feb – Doctor Convicted of Murder by Overprescribing Opioids
- » Mar – Drug-Using Surgical Tech Causes Multi-State Health Scare
- » Jun – FDA Approves Buprenorphine Implant
- » Jul – Expanded Access to Buprenorphine (HHS)
- » Jul – Fewer Opioids, More Drug Tests, Prescribed for Injured Workers
- » Aug/Sep – Inconsistent Drug Tests Among Patients Treated with Opioids for Cancer Pain
- » Oct – Insurance Spending Skyrockets for Treating Opioid Dependence

Oral Fluid Testing

- » Jul – Higher Positive Rates from Oral Fluid than Urine

Post-Accident Testing

- » Apr/May – Injury to Intoxicated Employee Is Recordable
- » Jun – Blanket Post-Accident Testing Violates Injury Reporting Rule (OSHA)
- » Aug/Sep – 3-Month Delay in Enforcing Policy Against Post-Accident Testing (OSHA)
- » Nov – Post-Accident Testing Policy Under Scrutiny (OSHA)
- » Dec – OSHA's Post-Accident Testing Policy Remains in Place (TX)

Random Testing

- » Jan – 2016 Random Testing Rates (DOT)
- » Apr/May – Random Testing Rate Reduced (U.S. Army)
- » Dec – Random Testing Rate Remains 25 Percent (FMCSA)

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

- » Jul – Reasonable Suspicion Decision Upheld (IL)

Refusal to Test

- » Feb – Report of Past Refusal Was Not Slander (MS)
- » Oct – Yes, That's a Refusal to Test (PA)
- » Nov – Doctor's Note Doesn't Establish Shy Bladder (WA)

Screening Tests for Drugs

- » Jan – False-Positive Ecstasy Screen Caused by Cholesterol-Lowering Drug
- » Mar – Immunoassay Accuracy Varies by Drug/Drug Class
- » Jun – Oxycodone-Negative Test Related to Dilantin Use

Service Agents

- » Aug/Sep – Updated Definition of Service Agent (DOT)

Third-Party Administrator/Consortium

- » Jan – TPA Charged with Colluding with Its Competitor (FTC)
- » Feb – TPA Banned for Pretending to Use MRO (DOT)

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