

MRO Update
Vol. 18, JAN. - DEC. 2012
Index to Articles

Adulteration and Substitution

- » Feb – *Donor Becomes Psychotic After Using Drug Detox Kit*
- » March/April – *One in Six Surgeons Have Alcohol Problems*
- » May – *Dilute Urine Associated with Low Weight, High Metabolic Rate*
- » Nov – *Water Loading Study Reports >10% Dilute Rate*
- » Dec – *Alcohol Touchpads Coming to Cars*

Alcohol

- » July/Aug – *SAMHSA Updates Alcohol Biomarker Advisory*
- » Sept – *Study Reconfirms Need to Wait 15 Minutes Between Alcohol Tests*
- » Sept – *Worker Claims Seizure Stopped Him from Finishing Breath Test*
- » Nov – *Random Testing of Alcoholic Was Discriminatory (NJ)*
- » Dec – *Alcohol Touchpads Coming to Cars*
- » Dec – *Drunk Driver Mistakes Breathalyzer for iPhone*

Amphetamines

- » March/April – *No Effect on Driving from One Dose of d-Methamphetamine*
- » Oct – *False-Positive Amphetamines Screens from Fenofibrate*
- » Sept – *Urine Amphetamine Concentrations*
- » Sept – *Methamphetamine Use Impairs Driving Skills*

Cocaine

- » March/April – *Cocaine-Positive Rate Up by 33% After Cutoffs Lowered*
- » Oct – *Trucker Blames Cocaine-Positive Result on Dentist (NV)*

Collection

- » May – *DOT - Program Reminder for MROs, TPAs, Collectors, and Employers*
- » June – *Collector Sued for Having Donor Sign CCF Before Collection (LA)*
- » July/Aug – *Fake Urine Temperature Strips*
- » Sept – *Collection Goes Awry When Donor Forgets ID (NJ)*
- » Sept – *Office Worker Sues Over DOT-Style Direct Observation (IA)*

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- » March/April – *Company Can Have Policy Stricter Than DOT's (OH)*
- » May – *Compliance With DOT Precludes Discrimination Claim (NY)*
- » July/Aug – *Clarification Regarding Public Interest Exclusion*
- » July/Aug – *Only DOT Can Authorize a DNA Test (FL)*
- » Dec – *Congress - Bill Would Make DOT Try Hair Testing*

DOT Physicals

- » May – *FMCSA - New Rule Will Create Registry of Certified Medical Examiners*
- » July/Aug – *National Registry Open for Medical Examiner Sign-Ups*
- » Dec – *FMCSA - Medical Examiner Testing Begins*

Drug Testing Trends

- » March/April – *Florida - Drug Testing of State Workers*
- » May – *State Worker Drug Testing Law Ruled Unconstitutional (FL)*
- » May – *Union Agreement Does Not Bar Use of Last-Chance Agreement (TX)*
- » Nov – *Air Testing for Drugs*
- » Nov – *Court Says Drug Testing Policy is Not a Contract (TN)*

Hair Testing

- » Jan – *Hair Test Reasonable for Employee with Kidney Failure (TX)*
- » March/April – *Hair Test May be Grounds for Denying Benefits (WI)*
- » June – *Cocaine-Positive Hair from Passive Exposure*
- » June – *Methamphetamine-Positive Hair in Children from Passive Exposure*
- » Sept – *Melanin Affects Methamphetamine Incorporation in Human Hair*
- » Oct – *Court Rejects Racial Bias Claim Against Hair Drug Tests (MA)*
- » Dec – *Distinguishing Tramadol Use from Contamination*

Hydrocodone

- » Jan – *Stronger Hydrocodone Products Coming to Market*
- » Jan – *Vicodin-Abusing Police Officer Loses Job (IL)*

Laboratories

- » July/Aug – *LabCorp Buys MedTox*
- » Oct – *Lab Worker Falsifies Drug Test Results*

Marijuana and Synthetic Cannabinoids

- » Jan – *Low to Moderate Marijuana Use Doesn't Impair Lung Function*
- » Feb – *Truckers Can't Use Medical Marijuana*
- » March/April – *Baby Soaps Can Cause Positive Marijuana Screens*
- » March/April – *DEA - Renewed Ban on Spice and K2*
- » March/April – *Employee Loses Challenge Over Marijuana Cutoff Level*
- » March/April – *Marijuana Use Doubles Crash Risk*
- » June – *ADA Does Not Protect Medical Marijuana Use (CA)*
- » June – *Bath Salts and Spice are Moving Targets*
- » June – *Connecticut Legalizes Medical Marijuana, Protects Employees*
- » July/Aug – *Dronabinol Impairs Driving Skills*
- » July/Aug – *Israeli Firm Grows No-High Marijuana*
- » Sept – *Arkansas and Massachusetts to Vote on Medical Marijuana*
- » Sept – *Marijuana Cutoff of 5 ng/mL Increases Positives by 25%*
- » Oct – *Colorado, Oregon, Washington - Voters May Legalize Recreational Marijuana*
- » Oct – *Donor Blames Marijuana Result on Hepatitis and Paxil (FRA)*
- » Oct – *HIV-Positive Applicant Failed to Corroborate Use of Marinol (AZ)*
- » Oct – *Medical Marijuana User Reinstated After Testing Positive (CA)*
- » Oct – *Wal-Mart Worker Loses Medical Marijuana Appeal (MI)*

- » Nov – Colorado, Washington - Two States 11 Legalize Recreational Marijuana
- » Nov – Arkansas Rejects Medical Marijuana
- » Nov – Massachusetts Legalizes Medical Marijuana
- » Nov – Montana Limits Medical Marijuana
- » Dec – DOT - Marijuana Use Still Prohibited, Despite State Laws
- » Dec – Medical Marijuana Not Disqualifying From Being a Dad (CA)
- » Dec – Pro-Marijuana's Approach to Legalization

Medical Review Officers

- » Jan – Concentration Can be Disclosed to Employer (GA)
- » Feb – DOT Advisory Issued Regarding Medical Review Officers Contacting Treating Physicians
- » Feb – Fake MRO Pleads Guilty (VT)
- » March/April – MRO Acted Appropriately (AL)
- » May – Prescription Verification
- » July/Aug – Resident Physicians Overestimate Their Drug Test Interpretation Skills
- » Nov – Hurricane Sandy's Effect on Transmission of Laboratory Drug Test Results to Medical Review Officers

Methadone

- » Jan – Prescription Methadone Users at Increased Risk of Motor Vehicle Accidents
- » Jan – FMLA Lets Treating Provider Determine Fitness for Return
- » July/Aug – One-Third of Prescription Opioid Deaths Caused by Methadone
- » Sept – Tapentadol Can Cause False-Positive Methadone Screens

Opioids

- » Jan – Prescription Opioids Are Larger Share of Workers Compensation Costs
- » Jan – Prescription Opioids Overdoses at Epidemic Levels
- » Jan – Recalled OTC Drugs May Contain Opioids
- » Jan – Drug Testing Matters - Focus on Opioids
- » Feb – Fewer Opioid-Related Deaths After State Issues Prescribing Guidelines
- » March/April – Oxycodone and Hydrocodone Sales Spike Over Last Decade
- » March/April – Rise in Opana (Oxymorphone) Abuse
- » May – Codeine-Positive, Morphine-Negative Results from Poppy Seeds
- » May – DOT - Less Scrutiny of 6-AM Positive/Morphine-Negative Results
- » June – Drug Abusing Hospital Worker Suspected in Hepatitis C Outbreak
- » June – Senate Investigates Financial Ties Between Opioid Makers and Medical Groups
- » July/Aug – Doctors Accused of Murder by Overprescribing
- » July/Aug – Dog X-Ray Dupes Doctor in Drug Sting
- » Sept – Codeine As a Contaminant of Heroin
- » Sept – Propoxyphene Still Around Two Years After Removal from Market
- » Oct – DOT - Permanent Change to Handling of 6-AM Positive/Morphine-Negative Results
- » Oct – Illicit Drug Use Correlated With Not Taking Prescribed Opioids
- » Nov – Doctors Pressured to Prescribe Opioids
- » Nov - Drug Tests Show Less Propoxyphene in Use
- » Dec – Suboxone Sales Surge

Pain Patient Testing

- » March/April – Profit-Driven Testing of Pain Patients
- » June – Court Says Urine Tests Can't Measure Dose or Timing of Drug (MD)
- » Oct – Kentucky - Mandatory Drug Testing of Patients on Chronic Pain Meds
- » Dec – Millennium Laboratories Under Investigation for Alleged Fraud

Postaccident Testing

- » Sept – Test Negated by Failure to Follow State Law (IA)

Prescription Drugs

- » Oct – Prescription Drug Abuse Rates Drop
- » Nov – Firing Prescription Drug User Was Discriminatory (UT)
- » Nov – Addiction Does Not Excuse Stealing Drugs (Alberta, CA)

Railroads

- » Oct – High Positive Rates at AMTRAK

Random Testing

- » June – Random Testing of Job Corps Workers Unconstitutional (Federal case)
- » Dec – DOT - 2013 Random Testing Rates Notice

Refusal to Test/Shy Bladder

- » Jan – Refusal to Test is Misconduct (NY)
- » Jan – Failure to Promptly Show for Random Test is a Refusal
- » March/April – Reinstatement After Refusal to Test is Not Contrary to Public Policy (CT)
- » July/Aug – Employee Refuses Testing to Get Breast Lump Checked (MN)
- » July/Aug – Shy Bladder Not Covered by ADA

School Drug Testing

- » Oct – Drug Tested Students Are Less Likely to Use Drugs

Sports Testing

- » Jan – Goats Disqualified by Positive Drug Tests

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- » Feb – Federal Tests Will Include Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, and Oral Fluid
- » July/Aug – Proposed Rule for Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Oral Fluids Imminent
- » Sept – Oral Fluid and Hydrocodone/Oxycodone Proposal Imminent

Truck and Bus Drivers

- » Jan – No Safe Harbor Where Driver Continues Drug Abuse (KY)

Unemployment Benefits

- » Feb – Positive Random Drug Test is Misconduct (WI)
- » March/April – Congress - States Can Drug Test Applicants for Unemployment Benefits

United States Coast Guard

- » Feb – Request for Comments About Possible Rule Changes

Welfare

- » June – States Require Drug Tests for Welfare Recipients

Workers' Compensation

- » June - Surge in Drug Tests Billed to Workers' Comp

Back issues may be ordered for \$15 each based upon 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. Or, to purchase a complete year (10 issues) of print copies from 2006 - 2012 for \$150 per year, visit ACOEM's web-based Product Catalog at www.acoem.org within "Shop ACOEM" / MRO Resources. Indexes for these years are available for viewing or printout through the Catalog or can be found within the newsletter's description/information in the web site's "Knowledge Center" in the "Medical Review Officer" area.