Alcohol
» Feb – Physician Wins $4.75M Award in Defamation Suit Against Hospital (IN)
» Mar – Yeast, Urine, and Sugar Don’t Mix
» May/Jun – How to Lower One’s Breath Alcohol Test Result
» May/Jun – A Urine EtG Cutoff of 500 ng/mL Misses a Lot of Recent Alcohol Use
» Aug – Blood Phosphatidylethanol Offers Advantages in Monitoring Abstinence from Alcohol
» Aug – Positive Ethyl Sulfate Tests Attributed to Auto-brewery Syndrome
» Dec – Breath Could be a “Bodily Fluid” (RI)

Cannabidiol (CBD)
» Feb – Bill to Protect CBD Users Who Test Positive (KY)
» Mar – DOT – CBD Notice
» May/Jun – CBD Product Content Differs from Labels
» May/Jun – Stevens-Johnson Syndrome from Use of CBD Product
» May/Jun – The Law Legalizes CBD. It Doesn’t Protect Jobs (KY)
» Jul – Firefighter Claims CBD Use; Reinstated After Positive Test (LA)
» Jul – Returned to Work Because CBD Could Explain Result
» Jul – Use of CBD Does Not Establish Impairment (PA)
» Nov– Employer Not Obliged to Accommodate Use of CBD (TN)
» Dec – CBD Does Not Impair Driving. THC Does.
» Dec – Study Describes Marijuana-Positive Drug Tests After the Use of CBD

Collection Procedures, Shy Bladder
» Jan – Collectors: Don’t Ask About Medications! (SAMHSA)
» Mar – Proposal to Add Oral Fluid to the Federal CCF (SAMHSA)
» Apr – Correcting Flaws When the Collection Site is Closed (NLCP)
» Aug – The MRO is the Final Arbiter of Shy Bladder Explanations (DC)
» Sep/Oct – Revised Federal CCF (SAMHSA, DOT)

COVID-19
» Mar – Reprieve on Medical Examiner Retraining (FMCSA)
» Apr – Drug and Alcohol Testing During the Pandemic (DOT)
» Apr – Motor Carrier Drug and Alcohol Testing during the Pandemic (FMCSA)
» Apr – SAP Assessment and Service Agent Training During the Pandemic (FMCSA)
» Apr – ASAM Suggests Pause in Addiction Treatment Drug Testing During Pandemic
» May/Jun – 90-Day Waiver for Pre-Employment Drug Tests (FMCSA)
» May/Jun – Waivers That Are Scheduled to Expire on June 30, 2020 (DOT)

Department of Transportation – Drug and Alcohol Testing
» Jan – 2020 Random Testing Rates Increase for FTA and USCG
» Jan – Clearinghouse Crashes; Employers Can Delay Queries (FMCSA)
» Feb – Clearinghouse Website Working Again (FMCSA)
» Feb – Changing a DOT Positive to a Non-DOT Positive
» May/Jun – Clearinghouse Finds 95% of Drivers with Violations Remain in Prohibited Status
» Dec – 2021 Random Rates Unchanged for FAA, FRA, FTA, and PHMSA

Discrimination
» Jan – Hospital Legally Fired Pharmacist Who Finished Drug Rehab (CA)
» Jan – Company Settles Disability Discrimination Suit Over Shy Bladder (IN)
» Feb – Pill Count at Work Would Be an Invasion of Privacy (AL)
» Aug – EEOC Guidance on Opioid Use and Employment
» Nov – Exam Because of Safety Concerns Was Not Discriminatory (IN)

Drug Testing Trends
» Jan – U-Haul Adds Nicotine Testing
» Jan – Increased Methamphetamine and Fentanyl Positive Rates in Clinical Drug Tests
» Mar – Urine Drug Testing is Infrequent in Cancer Patients
» Dec – Review Highlights Paucity of Evidence that Workplace Drug Prevention Programs Work

Federal Aviation Administration
» Mar – NTSB: More Drugs Showing Up in Pilots Who Crash
» Aug – Proposed Electronic Pilot Database

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
» May/Jun – Proposal for Integrating Clearinghouse with State Driver Licensing Agencies
» Aug – Enter State of Issuance/CDL Number into the Clearinghouse
Federal Railroad Administration
» Nov – Inspector General Recommends Broader Drug Testing at Amtrak

Hair Testing
» Mar – Hair Testing (SAMHSA)
» Aug – Caution About Passive Exposure and Hair Tests
» Aug – Four-Month Detection Window for Cocaine in Hair
» Sep/Oct – Proposed Hair Testing Mandatory Guidelines (SAMHSA)
» Dec – Hair Testing to Distinguish Between Coca Tea and Recreational Cocaine Use

Marijuana
» Jan – Warnings About Marijuana and Workplace Safety
» Jan – Fatal Crashes Increase with Opening of Recreational Marijuana Stores
» Feb – Bill to Increase the Marijuana Cutoff
» Feb – DEA’s Threat Assessment Shows Increase in Marijuana Potency and Demand
» Feb – 11-OH-THC in Hair as a Marker of Active Marijuana Use
» Feb – Proportion of Drivers in Fatal Crashes Who Test Positive for THC Doubles After Washington Legalizes Marijuana
» Mar – Higher Urine THCA Concentrations from Vaping Marijuana
» Mar – Medical Marijuana-Using Employee is Protected by State Disability Law
» Mar – Marijuana-Using Worker Forfeits Claim for Disability Benefits
» May/Jun – Medical Marijuana As a Reasonable Accommodation? (NY)
» Jul – Higher Plasma THC Levels, But Not More Impairment, After Using THC Concentrates
» Jul – Cannabis Users Drive Worse Even When Sober
» Jul – THC-Positive Semen Samples
» Aug – False Advertising of Cannabis as a Treatment for Opioid Misuse
» Aug – Cannabis is an Ineffective Treatment for Heart Disease
» Aug – Employer Didn’t Prove Marijuana Use Caused the Accident (TN)
» Aug – Individualized Decisions About Medical Marijuana (Newfoundland/Labrador)
» Sep/Oct – Half of All Positive Results Are from Marijuana
» Sep/Oct – National Survey Finds Increase in Past-Year Marijuana Use
» Nov –Marijuana and Other Recreational Drugs Win In the 2020 Election
» Nov – Study Finds Lack of Association Between Cannabis Use and Workplace Injuries
» Nov – No Test for Marijuana Impairment? Court Says, Try Again. (Newfoundland)
» Dec – Marijuana – SAMHSA Still Tests for It
» Dec – House of Representatives Votes to Legalize Marijuana
» Dec – Court Says Medical Marijuana Is a Prescribed Drug (PA)

Medical Review Officers
» Aug, Nov – ACOEM’s Medical Review Officer Course Goes Online
» Nov – TPA Not Responsible for MRO’s Interpretation (LA)

Methamphetamine
» Aug – Methamphetamine-Positive Rates Climb 467% in Boston from 2014-2019
» Dec – Truck Driver Who Killed Five Bicyclists Tests Positive for Methamphetamine

Opioids
» Jan – Opioid Deaths Rise in Areas Where Auto Plants Close
» Jan – Naloxone Is Just as Effective for Fentanyl as for Other Opiates
» Feb – American Life Expectancy Rises as Rate of Opioid Deaths Falls
» Feb – Prescription Monitoring Program Data Show Less Opioid Prescribing
» Mar – Fentanyl (SAMHSA)
» Mar – Fentanyl-Addicted Anesthetist Entitled to Disability Benefits (MO)
» May/Jun – Stall in U.S. Life Expectancy is Primarily Due to Cardiovascular Disease, Not Drug Overdoses
» Jul – Fentanyl-Positive for a Week or More After Chronic Use
» Nov – Death from Poppy Seed Tea
» Dec – Truck Driver’s Opioid Use Caused Crash That Killed 7 Motorcyclists
» Dec – Prescription Opioid Sales Declined by 60% from 2011 Peak

Oral Fluid Testing
» Jan – Esophagitis from Gargling Bleach to Beat Saliva Test
» May/Jun – Urine Has Longer Window of Detection Than Oral Fluid
» Jul – Oral Fluid Test Results After Eating THC-Infused Brownies

Post-Accident Drug Testing
» Mar – Bus Driver Sentenced to 10 Years After Post-Accident Test (GA)

Reasonable Suspicion
» May/Jun – Reasonable Suspicion Doesn’t Require Certainty (RI)

Refusal to Test
» Jan – State Drug Testing Law Provides Exclusive Remedy for Violations (IA)
» Nov – Drug Test Collection Company Investigated for Falsifying Refusals to Test

Workers’ Compensation Benefits
» Feb – Injured Worker Fails to Rebut Presumption of Impairment (AR)
» Feb – Court Orders Employer to Pay for Worker’s Medical Marijuana (NJ)
» Jul – Workers’ Comp Benefits Awarded Despite Cocaine-Positive Post-Accident Test (NY)
» Dec – Workers’ Compensation Doesn’t Have to Cover Medical Marijuana (MA)