

Alcohol

- » Feb – Physician Wins \$4.75M Award in Defamation Suit Against Hospital (IN)
- » Mar – Yeast, Urine, and Sugar Don't Mix
- » May/June – How to Lower One's Breath Alcohol Test Result
- » May/June – 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/June – CBD Product Content Differs from Labels
- » May/June – Stevens-Johnson Syndrome from Use of CBD Product
- » May/June – 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 Obligated 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)
- » Sep/Oct – Non-Regulated, Directly Observed Collections Survive Challenge (OH)

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/June – 90-Day Waiver for Pre-Employment Drug Tests (FMCSA)
- » May/June – Waivers That Are Scheduled to Expire on June 30, 2020 (DOT)
- » May/June – Drug Testing Policies and the COVID-19 Pandemic
- » May/June – Breath Alcohol Testing During COVID-19

- » Jul – DOT Extends SAP and Training Waivers to September 30, 2020
- » Jul – Leniency in Meeting Random Drug-Test Rates (FMCSA)
- » Jul – DOT Extends Medical Cards & Licenses to September 30, 2020 (FMCSA)
- » Jul – Increased Drug-Positive Rates During COVID-19
- » Sep/Oct – COVID-19 Extensions to December 31, 2020 (DOT)
- » Nov – Clinical Drug Test Positivity Increases with COVID-19 Pandemic
- » Dec – Part 40 Waivers for Service Agents Extended Through June 30, 2021 (DOT)
- » Dec – Extensions for CDLs and Expiring Medical Certificates to February 28, 2021 (FMCSA)

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/June – 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/June – 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)