

DRUG TESTING

Drug class screened	Examples of specific drugs identified during confirmation
Amphetamines	Methamphetamine, amphetamine
Barbiturates	Phenobarbital, secobarbital, pentobarbital
Benzodiazepines	Diazepam, lorazepam
Cannabinoids	Marijuana
Cocaine	Cocaine and/or its metabolite (benzoylecognine)
Opiates	Codeine, morphine, metabolite of heroin
Phencyclidine (PCP)	PC

Patient: What is drug testing?

Doctor: Drugs of abuse testing is the detection of one or more illegal and/or legal substances in the urine or, more rarely, in the blood, saliva, hair, or sweat.

Patient: How is a drug test used?

Doctor: Drug of abuse testing may be used in one of several different ways: Medical screening, legal or forensic testing, Employment Drug testing, Sports/Athletic testing

Patient: Who are the people that may be tested for medical reasons?

Doctor: Someone in the emergency room who is having acute health problems that the doctor thinks may be drug-related, Someone in the emergency room who has been in an accident, when the doctor suspects that drugs and/or alcohol may have been involved, A youth or adult who the doctor suspects may be using drugs, and Pregnant women thought to be at risk for drug abuse or neonates exhibiting certain characteristic behaviors.

Patient: How is it used for legal or forensic testing?

Doctor: Drug testing for legal purposes is primarily concerned with the detection of illegal or banned drug use in a variety of situations, and Forensic testing utilizes a variety of body fluids and tissues that may be tested for numerous drugs during a crime investigation.

Patient: How is it used for sports?

Doctor: While conventional drug testing is performed on competitive athletes, the primary focus is on doping - drugs and/or supplements that are taken to promote muscle growth and/or to improve strength and endurance.

Patient: When is it ordered?

Doctor: Drug testing is performed whenever a doctor, employer, legal entity, or athletic organization needs to determine whether a person has illegal or banned substances in his body. It may be ordered prior to the start of some new jobs and insurance policies as mandated when court ordered, as indicated when ordered by a doctor to monitor a known or suspected substance abuse patient, and whenever a person has symptoms that suggest drug use.

Patient: How is the sample collected for testing?

Doctor: Urine is the most frequently tested sample, but other body samples such as hair, saliva, sweat, and blood also may be used for drug abuse screening but not interchangeably with urine. Urine and saliva are collected in clean containers. A blood sample is obtained by inserting a needle into a vein in the arm. Hair is cut close to the scalp to collect a sample. A sweat sample is typically collected by applying a patch to the skin for a specified period of time.

Patient: Is there anything else I should know?

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Doctor: Yes, Certain prescription and over-the-counter drugs may give a positive screening result. You should declare any medications that you have taken and/or for which you have prescriptions when you have a drug test so that your results can be interpreted correctly.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why doesn't a drug screen measure all drugs?
2. Why would someone be tested for something that is legal?
3. What is doping?