

# Technical Bulletin

SCPMG LABORATORY SYSTEM – REGIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES

## Quality Subcommittee – 3/29/2013

### Update: Confirmation of **Positive THC** and **Benzodiazepine** Urine Screens Only at Provider Discretion

- Effective April 1, 2013, there is no need to confirm positive THC and benzodiazepine results from DRUG SCREEN, URINE, TRIAGE KIT [219708], except for samples from children under the age of 14 years and pregnant women or when requested by the provider.
- Over 95% of positive THC urine toxicology results from the new MedTox device have been successfully confirmed. Positive samples from neonates will once again be tested at the RRL.
- About 80% of benzodiazepine results have been confirmed, mostly as prescribed medications.
- Toxicology results are to be used only for medical purposes, and not for employment or school enrollment, or for legal purposes. Chain of custody is not monitored.

Drug Detected by Screen	Confirmatory Test
Amphetamine or Methamphetamine	AMPHETAMINE, METHAMPHETAMINE, CONFIRM [82145D]
PCP	PCP (PHENCYCLIDINE) URINE, CONFIRMATORY [80102ZF]
Barbiturates <sup>1</sup>	BARBITURATES, URINE, CONFIRMATION [82205M]
Benzodiazepines <sup>2</sup>	BENZODIAZEPINES, URINE, CONFIRMATION [80154U]
Cocaine	COCAINE METABOLITE, URINE, CONFIRMATORY [80102H]
Opiates <sup>2</sup>	OPIATES, URINE CONFIRMATORY [80102F]
THC <sup>2,3</sup>	CANNABINOIDS, URINE, CONFIRMATORY [80102A]
TCA	CONFIRMATION NOT APPLICABLE (N/A)

1. Please send all positive screens for Barbiturates to Quest Diagnostics directly from your Medical Center.
2. For Benzodiazepines, Opiates, and THC, only positive samples from children younger than 14 years of age and pregnant women should be sent to the RRL for confirmatory testing. See also note #3 for THC (below).
3. Positive THC samples from neonates (0 - 31 days) should be sent to the RRL, but often cannot be confirmed due to their immature metabolism and excretion. Correlation with maternal testing is recommended instead.

### Questions?

- Client Service Center, 1-888-4LAB NFO, or tie line 397-7077
- Hashem Almahdi, Manager, RRL Esoteric Chemistry Department, 818-503-6768, tie line 397
- Dr. Darryl Palmer-Toy, Chair, SCPMG Laboratory Operations Quality Subcommittee, 818-503-7028, tie line 397

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