

Today Arcpoint Labs is going to walk you through the drug testing process from order to result

You will learn:

- What tests are available
- How to ensure proper collection
- How to decide what test is right for each situation
- How to order tests correctly
- What happens when your client comes into our lab
- The collection process
- Testing process of USDTL and QUEST
- How results are received and reported

Some words we will use today:

1) Adulterate-

- When donor tries to alter the sample to eliminate drug or alcohol biomarker

2) Biomarker

- A measureable substance indicative of ingestion or exposure to substances of abuse

3) Keratin

- Protein found in biological tissues. Forms fibers in tissues effective in trapping drug and alcohol metabolites

4) Window of detection

- Length of time following ingestion that substance can be detected

5) COC (short for Chain of Custody)

- Form that includes personal and testing information sent with test

6) Authorization Form

- Form that provides information of test ordered, client ordering, and provides the ordering subject ownership of the test

Available testing methods

Panels

- 5,7,9,10,12,14,15,16,17
- Must be a 10 panel or higher to add on single test

Urine

- Easy to collect without notice
- 3-5 day lookback for all drugs but THC 30 day lookback
- Easier to cheat with fake sample or adulterant

Hair

- Easy to collect without notice; head or body
- Not easily adulterated; drug n alcohol biomarkers in fibers of strand

- Drugs seen in sample 1-7 days from ingestion
- 3 inch sample 100mg collected sufficient for testing and confirmation all panels
- 3 month look back for head hair; 3mo-1yr for body hair
- Preferred collection method for child exposure testing

Fingernails

- Easy to collect may; need 3 week growth time
- Drug and alcohol biomarkers locked in keratin fibers by blood flow, oils on skin
 - Contamination from sweat 24hrs after usage
 - Incorporated into nail bed within 2 weeks
 - Incorporated from germinal matrix (nail growth) at highest concentration 3months after ingestion
- Keratin is four times thicker in nails than in hair
- 6 mo. look back
- Exposure detected 1-2 weeks from ingestion
- 2-3 mm (width of quarter) from all 10 nails gives 100mg of sample

Toenails

- 9 mo. lookback with same stats as fingernail

Blood

- No notice required for collection
- No way for clients to adulterate specimen
- 1-3 day look back for drug substances of abuse
 - Two small tubes drawn
- Alcohol look back period of 2-3 weeks
 - Can detect binge drinking
 - Sample viable for 1 year after collection
 - Client can easily submit sample by venipuncture or capillary stick

Saliva

- 1-3 day detection period
- Difficult to adulterate
- No notice required for collection

When choosing a test

Things to consider:

- Consider the subject
- Short look back

- Urine good for
 - safe visitations
 - parole monitoring
 - follow up testing
- Does the subject (All of these can affect collection)
 - Shave the head hair?
 - Trim it short?
 - Bleach the hair?
- Does subject bite nails?
 - Most recovering addicts pick or bite nails out of habit & are difficult to collect sample from
- How much information do you give them?
 - What not to say to give them information that helps them cheat a test
 - urine
 - do not give a notice longer than one day
 - finger or toe nails
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Ordering a test

- We have provided all courts with an Authorization form.
 - Subjects name and personal information at top, all court ordering information on bottom.
 - Check off (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)
 - preferred tests
 - time to be taken by
 - who will be paying for the test
- Please send a copy of the court order whenever possible

What happens?

- When client comes in
 - we require a valid government photo ID to compare to Donor.
 - Photo copy ID
 - look for court faxed copy of order that is unaltered
- Check requested collection site and judge is sufficient
- Take out forms and sealed kit.
 - Open in front of client.
 - Implements are alcohol cleaned before and after each collection.
- Clients are instructed how to clip finger /toe nails onto paper.
 - Hair is cut/ shaved by collector.
 - Sample is packed and sealed in front of client.
 - Paperwork initialed and signed.
 - Test kit sealed.
 - Copy given to client for personal records and instructed on MRO calls.
- Test is charged to ordered payee then Fedex shipped to USDTL or Couriered to QUEST

- Tests take 1 week to process and require extra time for MRO to contact client if any medications are detected. We give a time frame of 1-3 weeks.

Child exposure testing

- a 3 month look back hair test preferred
- Research shows more cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamines can be detected better in hair than urine
- Minimum amount of hair collected to minimize trauma to child
- Only half sample required for testing.
 - No confirmation needed.
 - Run without cutoff
- Requires adult to ID, have a valid government photo ID to copy and sign for test.
- Results state both Carboxy and Native and distinguish between exposure and ingestion
 - Carboxy – Ingestion
 - Native - Exposed

***any of these tests can be ordered in panels ranging from a basic 5 to a 17 panel.

- A 10 panel or higher must be ordered to add on any extra drug tests needed.