

# CLIENT BULLETIN

*January 2017*

*Urinary Kratom Quantitation*

**Kratom** has been added to our test menu. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Its leaves have been used for hundreds of years to relieve pain. They can be eaten raw, but more often they're crushed and brewed as tea or turned into capsules, tablets, and liquids. Two compounds in kratom leaves, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, interact with opioid receptors in the brain, producing sedation, pleasure, and decreased pain. Mitragynine may also interact with other receptor systems in the brain to produce stimulant effects. In low doses, kratom acts as a stimulant. In large amounts, it acts as a sedative, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says it can lead to psychotic symptoms and psychological addiction.

The DEA includes kratom on its Drugs of Concern list (substances that are not currently regulated by the Controlled Substances Act, but that pose risks to persons who abuse them), and the National Institute of Drug Abuse has identified kratom as an emerging drug of abuse. Published case reports have associated kratom exposure with psychosis, seizures, and deaths. Because deaths have been attributed to kratom in the United States, some jurisdictions have passed or are considering legislation to make kratom use a felony.

PacTox utilizes Liquid Chromatography- Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) technology to detect and quantitate the presence of this drug in urine samples.

**Specimen Requirements:**

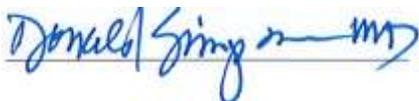
Fresh Urine sample collected in a sterile plastic container.  
Optimal Amount - 10 mL urine  
Minimal Amount - 5.0 mL urine

**Stability:**

Transport specimen at room temperature. Store refrigerated (2°C – 8°C) up to 7 days.

| Test Code | Test Name | Method   | Quantitation Level | Turnaround Time | Test Price |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 902359    | Kratom    | LC-MS/MS | 5 ng/mL            | 1-2 Days        | \$80       |

This test offering will address the needs of our physicians who practice substance abuse treatment programs. Our technical staff is available for consultation at your convenience. You may also contact your sales representative for additional details.



Donald Simpson, MD  
Medical Director  
Pacific Toxicology Laboratories