CLIENT BULLETIN

PACIFIC TOXICOLOGY LABORATORIES PacTox

August 2017 ***SAMHSA New Drug Testing Panel***

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Transportation (DOT) have published documents to expand federal requirements for urine drug testing programs.

HHS monitors drug abuse trends and investigates information on new drugs from sources such as federal regulators, researchers, the drug-testing industry, and both public and private sector employers. Four added semi-synthetic drugs are among the recommendations and were based on a review of scientific information and on input from the Drug Testing Advisory Board (DTAB).

The new guidelines, effective October 1, 2017 are as follows:

- Federal executive branch agencies will be required to test for additional DEA Schedule II drugs (i.e., **Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Hydrocodone, and Hydromorphone).**
- **Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) will be removed** from the standard testing panel.
- **The PH cutoff will be raised from three to four** for identifying specimens as adulterated.

Beginning October 1, 2017, PacTox's Federal Workplace Drug Testing clients will receive drug test results reflecting the above HHS changes. Chain of Custody (COC) forms will be distributed to collection sites as soon as they are made available by HHS. Collection sites will still be able to use old COCs past the October 1, 2017 start date until supplies are exhausted or until such a time that HHS no longer allows the use of the old CCF.

Attached please find the letter from SAMHSA's Division of Workplace Programs (DWP) regarding the effective date of the revised Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine (UrMG).

Please contact Pacific Toxicology Laboratories for any questions regarding these testing changes.

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August 16, 2017

Dear Collectors, Laboratory Responsible Persons, Medical Review Officers, and Federal Drug Testing Third Party Administrators,

The revisions to the *Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine* (revised Guidelines) were announced in the Federal Register **[82 FR 7920]** on January 23, 2017 (See Enclosure 1) with an effective date of October 1, 2017. I am sending this letter regarding the revisions to the list of drugs authorized for testing.

Process of Agency Implementation - Revised Drug Testing Panel

In addition to removing methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) from the standard testing panel for federal civilian applicants and employees, the revised Guidelines provide agencies implementing Executive Order 12564 with the authority to add four Schedule II semi-synthetic opioids to the standard drug testing panel.

Agencies must implement the revised Guidelines, and discontinue testing for MDEA as of October 1, 2017. Given the scope of the opioid crisis, we have strongly recommended that agencies begin testing for the additional semi-synthetic opioids on October 1, 2017. Agencies should revise their procedures and labor agreements, in accordance with their internal policy to:

- Review and amend their drug-free workplace plan to update the term "opiates" to "opioids"
- Notify all federal civilian applicants and employees that:
  - MDEA will no longer be tested under the standard panel
  - Oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone will be added to the standard panel
- Remind employees of the availability of assistance, treatment, and rehabilitation through the agency's Employee Assistance Program
- Prior to September 15, 2017, notify drug testing service providers (i.e., collectors, laboratories, and Medical Review Officer service providers and/or third party drug testing administrators) of the date that testing of the four semi-synthetic opioids are to begin and modify contracts/agreements accordingly.

We have communicated with agency Drug Program Administrators and Coordinators and provided them with a template to notify their drug testing service providers of the date to begin testing their workplace specimens for the four additional semi-synthetic opioids. Some of your clients and

customers have already notified you of their plans to test for the additional drugs as of October 1, 2017. For others, however, there may be a longer process of decision-making and implementation planning.

The diligence of all parties will be needed to ensure that federally regulated specimens are tested for the drugs specified in the federal agencies drug-free workplace plan.

Briefings and Resources

We will post the following resources on our website https://www.samhsa.gov/workplace shortly, and notify all parties when they are available:

- An audio briefing
- The revised Federal Custody and Control Form
- The revised Collection Handbook
- The revised Medical Review Officer Guidance Manual

Please contact Anastasia Donovan of my staff at Anastasia.Donovan@samhsa.hhs.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ron Flegel
Director, Division of Workplace Programs

Enclosure: *Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs using Urine* (revised Guidelines)