

DRUGS OF ABUSE

AVAILABLE TESTS

| Drug of abuse panel | Panel mnemonic | Components (refer to street names and detection times below) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 10 Panel Qualitative Cassette | POCDOA | Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cannabinoids, Cocaine/Benzoyllecgonine, Methadone, Methamphetamine/Tik, Opiates, PCP/Phencyclidine, TAD/Tricyclic antidepressants |
| 10 Panel Quantitative | DOA | 7 Immunoassay: Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Cannabinoids, Cocaine/Benzoyllecgonine, Mandrax/Methaqualone, Methadone, Opiates 3 LC-MS/MS: Methamphetamine/Tik, Methcathinone/Cat, Ecstasy |
| Amphetamine Type Stimulants | ATSC | LC-MS/MS: Amphetamines, Methamphetamine/Tik, Methcathinone/Cat, Ecstasy (MDMA, MDA, MDEA) |

| Drug of abuse test(s) | Screening test mnemonic | Confirmatory test mnemonic NB: <i>arrange chain of custody if needed</i> | Street name(s) | Detection time |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Amphetamine | AMPH | ATSC | Speed, Crystal, Ice, Uppers | 1-4 days |
| Barbiturates | BARBU | NOT AVAILABLE | Blue heavens, Velvet, Devil, Red devils, Pink lady, Purple hearts | 1-14 days |
| Benzodiazepines | BENZU | BENZOUC | Benzos, Mellow, Downers, Ativan, Rohypnol, Valium, Serenax | 1-9 days, up to 30 days |
| Cannabis | CANN | CANC | Dagga; Marijuana; Pot; Weed Whoonga (Nyaope) | 2-5 days: infrequent use 21-28 days: chronic use 6-11 weeks: heavy use |
| Cocaine (Benzoyl ecgonine) | COCA | COCC | Crack; Coke; Rock; Snow; Flake; Blow | 2-3 days, up to 9 days |
| LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethylamide) | POCLSDS | LSDC | Acid | 0-2 days |
| Mandrax (Methaqualone) | MAND | MANDC | Mandrax; Soaps; Love Pill | 90-225 hours |
| Methadone | METH | MISCC | Meth; Methadone | 1-3 days |
| Opiates | OPIA | OPIAC | Morphine: Junk, White Stuff, "M", Heroin: Horse, White Lady, "H", Codeine, Morphine | 7-54 hours: infrequent use Up to 12 days: chronic use |
| PPX (Propoxyphene) | POCPPXS | PPXC | PPX, Doloxene | 1-2 days |

Drugs of abuse screening tests detect the presence of various classes of abused drugs. Request the drug of concern using the test mnemonic, or choose a panel for a comprehensive screening approach.

The following screening tests are available:

- The **10 panel qualitative cassette screening** (Qualitative lateral flow immunoassay methodology) is the most cost-effective option and suitable for single/low number patient testing. Limitations include the absence of quantification, manual testing and subjective interpretation. This panel does not include Cat, Ecstasy or Mandrax and these tests can be requested as separate tests, additionally. PCP and TAD can only be requested as part of this panel.
- The **10 panel quantitative screening** combines the immunoassay (7 analytes) and LC-MS/ MS (3 additional analytes) methodology. This panel is automated, suitable for high number patient testing and renders quantitative results. Barbiturates, PCP or TAD are not included and can be requested as single tests.

The above screening tests have a faster turnaround time (24 hours).

Confirmatory tests (LC-MS/MS) are available to confirm positive screening results, ideally on the same urine specimen as a follow up collection may yield negative results if collected after the detection period. Confirmatory tests offer excellent specificity and analytical sensitivity at much lower levels than screening tests. The turnaround time of confirmatory tests is longer.

Specimen requirements

A random urine sample is required.

In cases where the results may be used for medico-legal purposes, a chain-of-custody procedure should be followed for the whole drug testing process, including specimen collection, screening and confirmation testing. The screening and confirmation testing should be done on the same specimen in these cases.

Contact the Ampath care centre nearest you for more information on the chain-of-custody procedure.

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