



All About
Drug Testing



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INSIDE DRUG SCREENING

Important News, Information, and Trends About Drug Screening

National Drug Screening, Inc. (NDS) is excited to sponsor this Inside Drug Screening column in The Background Buzz for 2024. It is our intent to educate the background screening industry on important news, information, and trends about drug screening. Our focus will be on workplace drug testing and each month we will feature a specific drug testing topic followed by any recent news, information, and trends. These back to the basics drug testing topics will help your teams better understand drug testing and to help grow your drug testing revenue.

Drug Test Panels and Understanding Drug Testing Beyond the Five Panel

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“It is critical for a drug testing vendor and for an employer to understand exactly what drugs for which they are testing.

There are variations of the 5 panel and 10 panel and with anything above a 10 panel there needs to be a complete list of the drugs the client is looking to add.”

Evaluating the Five Panel Urine Drug Test

Since the late 1980's, the common drug testing panel for workplace drug testing has been the 5 panel drug test. You may or may not be aware that there are multiple versions of a 5 panel drug test for Non-DOT employers. For DOT employers there is only one version of the five panel, but it has changed over the years. We also want to discuss in this article what we call beyond the five panel: 10 panel, additional panels, hair drug test panels and oral fluid drug test panels.

The current DOT panel includes the following:

1. Marijuana metabolites (THCA)
2. Cocaine metabolite (Benzoylcegonine)
3. Phencyclidine (PCP)
4. Amphetamine/Methamphetamine/MDMA/MDA (ecstasy)
5. Opioids

Opioids Include:

- A. Codeine/Morphine
- B. Heroin - 6-Acetylmorphine (6AM)
- C. Hydrocodone/Hydromorphone
- D. Oxycodone/Oxymorphone

“Did you know there are various versions of a 5 panel and a 10 panel drug test. Know what you are testing for?”

Looking over the above panels, I remember that the DOT 5 panel did not always include Methamphetamine/MDMA/ MDS (ecstasy), Heroin, or the expanded opiates of Hydrocodone/Hydromorphone and Oxycodone/Oxymorphone. 49 CFR Part 40 from 2001 included Amphetamine and Opiates. Methamphetamine was only tested in confirmation testing when the specimen must also contain amphetamine at a concentration of greater than or equal to 200 ng/mL.

Heroin - 6-Acetylmorphine (6AM) was only tested when the specimen contains morphine at a concentration greater than or equal to 2000 ng/mL.

Now, the previous paragraph might sound confusing, and [Read more](#)



Joe Reilly entered the world of drug testing in 1993 and over the last 25+ years has become a leading national expert on workplace drug testing, drug free workplace programs and specimen collections for drug tests. Joe is the President of a nationwide drug testing industry consulting firm – Joe Reilly & Associates. He is also President of National Drug Screening and is the Senior Director of Compliance for USA Mobile Drug Testing Inc.