

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Q How does the result window appear if the results are positive?***

*A: Only one band, the control band will appear and no band will develop when the target drug is present*

### ***Q: How does the result window appear if the results are negative?***

*A: Two coloured bands will appear, a control band and a test band on the strip next to the target drug*

### ***Q: What do I do if results show a very faint line?***

*A: Any very faint line on the test region could indicate that the drug in the sample could be near the cut-off level for the test. However, any line in the test area, no matter how faint, should be interpreted as a negative test. Perform a second test or send the specimen to a laboratory to obtain quantitative results.*

### ***Q: What will the control region look like if the test is working?***

*A: The control line should always appear regardless of the presence of drugs or metabolites. If the control line does not appear then all results are invalid.*

### ***Q: Unexpected results or test failure. What is the likelihood that the test device is defective?***

*98% of the time, unexpected test results or failure to obtain test results is the result of user error. Failure to follow instructions, inadequate sampling, device contamination, failure to use a timer or other user related factor. These tests, while simple to use still require certain basic testing disciplines. Unfortunately, people unfamiliar with these disciplines often ignore the test instructions or cautions expecting the test device to be accurate regardless of how it is used. Additionally, the stringent quality control checks and required random sampling methods mandated by the governmental regulatory authorities during the production process make the likelihood of receiving a defective test device extremely remote.*

**Q: What are adulterant tests?**

A; *Adulterant tests are checks done with every drug screening test with regards to the sample temperature, how diluted or concentrated the sample is, and whether anything has been added to the sample to possibly disguise the presence of drugs.*

**Q: Can I fail a drug test from passive smoking marijuana?**

A: *Generally speaking, passive smoking cannabis will not cause you to fail a drug screening test. For every drug tested for in a standard urine drug screen there are cut-off levels built into the test. This means that you can have a residual level of each drug in your system, up to the cut off level, and still pass your drug test.*

*Some recent research has shown that some individuals may fail a drug test after passive smoking cannabis, however it is very unlikely unless the individual concerned is in an unventilated room and is deliberately trying to inhale second-hand cannabis smoke*

**Q: Can you test for synthetic cannabinoids?**

A: *A standard urine drug screening test will not detect the presence of synthetic cannabinoids. There are screening test kits for synthetic cannabinoids*

**Q: I am taking a prescription medication. Will this particular medication test positive on a drug test?**

A: *There are literally hundreds of brand name and generic drugs being prescribed today. If you have a question on a specific prescribed medication, you will need to know the general classification of that medication to determine if it will test positive on any of the specific drug test panels, ie: opiates, amphetamine, methamphetamine, benzodiazepines, barbiturates etc. For general classifications on prescription drugs you can ask your pharmacist*

**Q Will commonly ingested substances such as vitamins, penicillin, aspirin, caffeine and paracetamol affect the results?**

A: *No. The tests are drug and drug metabolite specific. Because these commonly ingested substances are chemically and structurally different after metabolized by the body from the drugs being tested for, they will under most*

circumstances not interfere with or compromise test results.

**Q: What is the difference between heroin and morphine?**

A: Heroin, morphine and codeine are opiates derived from the resin of the opium poppy. Heroin is quickly metabolized to morphine. The body also changes codeine (used in some cold medicines) to morphine. Thus, the presence of morphine in the urine indicates heroin, morphine and/or codeine use.

**Q: What does THC mean?**

A: THC is an abbreviation for 11-nor-delta9 Tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid, the primary metabolite of Marijuana. Marijuana is a hallucinogenic agent derived from the leaves, flowers or seeds of the hemp plant. In general, the production and "curing" of the marijuana plant into its useable form closely resembles that of tobacco. Marijuana is almost always smoked and inhaled into the lungs where it is quickly metabolized (or changed) by the body into 11-nor-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid which is excreted in the urine.

**Q: Why is there a separate test for Oxycodone if Oxycodone is an Opiate?**

A: Oxycodone (Oxycontin) are synthetically manufactured opiates meaning they are not directly refined from the opium poppy resin source. While the chemical chains are similar, detection of synthetic opiate drugs requires a lower sensitivity detection level than that established for non-synthetic opiates.

**Q: What does PCP mean?**

A: PCP is an abbreviation of phencyclidine which is an arylcyclohexylamine. One street name is "angel dust".

**Q: What drugs could interfere and cause a positive morphine (opiates) test?**

A: Codeine is structurally related to morphine therefore can cause positive results. Codeine is a commonly prescribed pain medication and is also the

active ingredient in some prescription cough medicines. These forms of codeine can also be addictive and abused.

**Q: In what situations in my workplace can I be required to have a drug and/or alcohol test?**

*A: The circumstances around your drug test may vary, and this will be according to your company policies and procedures. It is becoming increasingly common for potential new employees to be required to undergo (and pass) a pre-employment drug screening test. Once employed by a company, drug and/or alcohol testing may be required in the following situations:*

- 1. Random testing*
- 2. Post-incident testing*
- 3. Reasonable cause testing*
- 4. Rehabilitation*
- 5. Pre-employment/pre-contract*
- 6. Internal transfer*

**Q: What are the laws around workplace drug testing in New Zealand?**

*A: There are no specific [employment laws](#) that govern workplace drug testing, however the [Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992](#), the [Privacy Act 1993](#), and the [Human Rights Act 1993](#) are all important Acts providing frameworks and definitive requirements for employers, and for drug testing agencies.*