

Recent Developments in Drug Testing: Specimens, Analytes, and Policies

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There have been numerous advances in novel specimens and analytes for drugs of abuse testing available to the criminal justice community. Alternative specimens to urine such as sweat, hair, and oral fluid; non-instrumented on-site tests; and novel analytes such as EtG have potential applications in criminal justice. In addition, improved policies such as use of lower confirmation cutoffs, recognizing that "negative" does not mean "no drug" and specimen validity testing with appropriate responses to specimen dilution can improve the effectiveness of drug testing. This presentation will address the state of development of these technologies, their scientific and clinical underpinnings, their capabilities and limitations with special attention to their use in criminal justice settings, and their regulatory and legal status.

Objectives:

1. Compare relative features, benefits, and issues in alternative specimens, their scientific foundations, regulatory and legal status.
2. Understand the potential utility and challenges of EtG in alcohol testing, compared to other conventional options, such as breath or urine alcohol.
3. Develop appropriate science-based policies in response to specimen validity, especially urine specimen dilution.

Target audience: All involved in drug testing policy and procedure development, performance of testing, and interpretation of test results.