

ACOEM's *MRO Update* Newsletter Index to Articles

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Buprenorphine

- » **April** – *Urine Testing for Transdermal Buprenorphine*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Expanded Access to Buprenorphine*

Codeine

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Borrowed and Authorized, Use of Codeine (IL)*

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- » **Jan/Feb** – *2015 Random Testing Rates*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drug/Alcohol Clearinghouse Rule Expected in Sept. 2015*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Pipeline Rule Modified per DOT's Part 40 Procedures*
- » **April** – *Procedures Now Allow Electronic CCFs*
- » **August** – *Updated Employer Guidelines*
- » **August** – *Public Interest Exclusion #2 - Elizabeth Pope/Eastgate Lab*
- » **Dec** – *Reminder About Electronic CCFs*
- » **Dec** – *Driver Coercion Rule Covers Drug and Alcohol Tests*
- » **Dec** – *Drug/Alcohol Clearinghouse Rule Expected in March 2016*
- » **Dec** – *Highway Bill Authorizes Motor Carrier Hair Testing*

Disability Discrimination

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drug-Test Related Disqualification is Not an ADA Concern (LA)*
- » **May** – *Donor Loses Discrimination Claim Over Shy Bladder (OH)*
- » **Aug** – *Driver Says His Addiction Prevented Him From Seeking Help (Alberta, CA)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Drug Tests Are Not Medical Exams Under ADA (PA)*
- » **Nov** – *Fired For Positive Drug Test, Not Disability (GA)*
- » **Dec** – *Fired For Positive Drug Test, Not Disability (AL)*

Drug Abuse Trends

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Heroin Deaths Up for Third Consecutive Year*
- » **May** – *One in 12 Workers on Drugs*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *More Americans Used Marijuana in 2014*

Drug Testing/Testing Trends

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Bill Would Require MRO Review of Obstetric Drug Tests (NY)*
- » **Jan/Feb** – *Little Evidence that Drug Testing Helps Manage Patients on Pain Medicines*
- » **March** – *Two Thirds of Employers Have Drug/Alcohol Testing Programs*
- » **April** – *Pediatrics Group Opposes School Drug Testing*
- » **June** – *Positive Drug Test Rate Increased in 2013 and 2014*
- » **June** – *Matching Urine to Donor by Tracer Capsules*
- » **Aug** – *Insurers Limit Drug Testing by Programs Treating Opioid Addiction*
- » **Aug** – *Video Game League Announces Random Drug Testing*
- » **Aug** – *Shakespeare's Pipes Test Positive for Marijuana and cocaine*

- » **Aug** – *State Law Lets the Employer Select Treatment After a Positive Test (MN)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Employees Can Have a Union Rep Present During Drug Test (CA, NY)*
- » **Nov** – *Drug Testing of Construction Workers (Australia)*
- » **Nov** – *Drug Testing of Workers' Comp Patients (ND)*
- » **Nov** – *Millennium Penalized for Alleged Overbilling of Clinical Drug Tests*
- » **Nov** – *Rising Costs of Drug Testing in Workers' Comp*
- » **Dec** – *College Can Drug Test Entire Student Body*

Drugs, Driving and Other Impairment

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Drugs Linked to Fatal Crash in Oklahoma*
- » **March** – *How to Determine if Drug Use is Safe? (Coast Guard)*
- » **March** – *Drugged Driving on the Rise*
- » **March** – *Driving Study Finds Risk from Being Young and Male, Not from Using Marijuana*
- » **June** – *Driver Crashes Bus After Allegedly Submitting Chicken Soup for Drug Test*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Recent Marijuana Use is Associated with Motor Vehicle Fatalities*
- » **Dec** – *Unsuccessful Challenge to Driving Under the Influence of Marijuana (OH)*
- » **Dec** – *Driver Coercion Rule Covers Drug and Alcohol Tests*

Electronic Custody and Control Forms (CCF)

- » **April** – *Procedures Now Allow Electronic CCFs*
- » **Dec** – *Reminder About Electronic CCFs*

Hair Testing

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Donor Sues Collector for Bad Haircut (OH)*
- » **June** – *Moving Towards Hair Testing*
- » **Aug** – *DTAB Supports Hair Testing*
- » **Aug** – *Amended Law Allows Hair Tests (LA)*
- » **Aug** – *Oxycodone Metabolite May Go Undetected in Hair*
- » **Aug** – *Court (Again) Rejects Racial Bias Claim Against Hair Tests (MA)*
- » **Sept/Oct** – *Congress Tries to Fast-Track Hair Testing*
- » **Nov** – *Hair Testing Bill Likely to Go to White House*
- » **Nov** – *Cannabinoids Enter Hair by External Mechanisms*
- » **Nov** – *Handling Marijuana Gets THC in Hair*
- » **Dec** – *Highway Bill Authorizes Motor Carrier Hair Testing*

Laboratories

- » **April** – *Three New Guidance Documents (NLCP)*

Marijuana

- » **Jan/Feb** – *Judge to Rule on Whether Marijuana Belongs in Schedule I (CA)*
- » **March** – *Marijuana-Using Employee Gets a Marinol Prescription*
- » **March** – *Employer Must Pay for Injured Worker's Medical Marijuana (NM)*
- » **April** – *Bill Would Move Marijuana to Schedule II (Congress)*
- » **April** – *Marijuana Remains Unacceptable for Federal Drug Tests (SAMHSA)*
- » **April** – *ACOEM/AOHN Guidance on Marijuana in the Workplace*

- » **April** – Federal Judge Declines to Rule on Rescheduling of Marijuana
- » **May** – Reporting of Marijuana-Positives Due to Use Per State Law
- » **June** – Marijuana Remains Off-Limits for Federal Workers
- » **June** – Colorado Supreme Court Upholds Firing for Medical Marijuana (CO)
- » **June** – False-Positive Marijuana Test Result in a Disabled Young Girl
- » **July** – Limited Evidence that Marijuana is an Effective Medicine
- » **July** – Extreme Passive Exposure to Marijuana Can Cause Positive Oral Fluid Test Results
- » **July** – Workers' Comp Covers Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **Nov** – Handling Marijuana Gets THC in Hair
- » **Dec** – FMCSA Should Consider Testing for Synthetic Marijuana (NTSB)
- » **Dec** – Employer Can Fire Medical Marijuana User (WA)
- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

Medical Review Officers

- » **Jan/Feb** – Borrowed and Authorized, Use of Codeine (IL)
- » **March** – Reporting a Changed Result
- » **May** – Reporting of Marijuana-Positives Due to Use Per State Law
- » **May** – MRO Prevails in Split Decision
- » **June** – Verification Using the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- » **Sept/Oct** – Is Medical Marijuana an Acceptable Explanation for a Non-Dot Test?
- » **Sept/Oct** – About One-Fifth of ASAM Members Are MRO-Certified
- » **Nov** – Old Prescriptions
- » **Nov** – Primary Result Valid Despite Failure to Test Split (IL)
- » **Dec** – Advanced Practitioners as MROs in Iowa
- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

National Safety Council

- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies

National Laboratory of Certification Program (NLCP)

- » **April** – Three New Guidance Documents (NLCP)

Opioids

- » **Jan/Feb** – Little Evidence that Opioids Work for Chronic Pain
- » **Jan/Feb** – High Rates of Opioid Use by Disability Recipients
- » **Jan/Feb** – Physician Dispensing Associated with Increased Opioid Use
- » **March** – Trend Toward Stronger Opioids
- » **April** – Failure to Respond to Drug Tests Showing Opioid Non-Compliance
- » **April** – Almost One-Fourth of Opioids Prescribed for Chronic Pain Are Misused
- » **April** – Urine Testing for Transdermal Buprenorphine
- » **May** – ER Doctors Prescribing Fewer Opioids
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse
- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies
- » **Aug** – Washington State Updates Its Opioid Guidelines
- » **Sept/Oct** – Expanded Access to Buprenorphine

Oral Fluid Testing

- » **Sept/Oct** – Poppy Seeds and Opiate-Positive Oral Fluid Tests
- » **Dec** – Positive Oral Fluid Tests From Vicks®

Poppy Seeds

- » **Sept/Oct** – Poppy Seeds and Opiate-Positive Oral Fluid Tests

Prescriptions

- » **April** – Almost One-Fourth of Opioids Prescribed for Chronic Pain Are Misused
- » **June** – Verification Using the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse
- » **July** – National Safety Council Urges Workplace Prescription Opioid Policies
- » **Nov** – Old Prescriptions

Random Testing

- » **Jan/Feb** – 2015 Random Testing Rates
- » **July** – Emotional Distress from Random Drug Test (CA)

Reasonable Suspicion

- » **Sept/Oct** – Employee's Alcohol-Related Absence Was Reasonable Suspicion (IN)

State Drug Testing Laws

- » **July** – Drug Testing Regulations Apply Only to Urine (CT)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- » **May** – HHS Proposes Oral Fluid Testing and Hydrocodone and Oxycodone Tests
- » **June** – Moving Towards Hair Testing
- » **July** – ACOEM Comments on Oral Fluids and Expanded Opioids
- » **July** – SAMHSA Webinar on Workplace Prescription Opioid Misuse

Versed

- » **Dec** – Versed Use Does Not Explain Marijuana-Positive Test Result (LA)

Vicks® VapoInhaler™

- » **Dec** – Positive Oral Fluid Tests From Vicks®

Workers' Compensation

- » **Jan/Feb** – Positive Post-Accident Test Establishes Intoxication (LA)
- » **March** – Drug Test Results Not Protected by HIPAA (LA)
- » **March** – Employer Must Pay for Injured Worker's Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **July** – Workers' Comp Covers Medical Marijuana (NM)
- » **Nov** – Drug Testing of Workers' Comp Patients (ND)
- » **Nov** – Rising Costs of Drug Testing in Workers' Comp

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