




Standard 15

Monitoring with Drug Testing

See section 10 of binder


Learning Objectives

As a result of this session, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the purpose and importance of drug testing for a treatment court program
- Assess the validity and legality of your drug test protocol
- Appropriately test your participants in your treatment court program

Cornerstone of Treatment Court Operations

- Monitor use through accurate and rapid detection
- Act as a deterrent for future use
- Provide incentive, support, and accountability to participants



Best Practice Procedures

- Random-2x/week
- Test as often as possible
- Drug detection times
- Observed by trained professional

Technologies Commonly Used

- Location
 - Onsite or laboratory
- Types of tests
 - Urine
 - Blood
 - Oral
 - Sweat
- Alcohol
 - EtG
 - EtS
 - Breathalyzer

Technology cont.

- Continuous Monitoring
 - Ankle bracelet (SCRAM)
 - Transdermal patch
- Know best detection times for each method and drug
- Interpreting test results
 - 2 step process
 - Screening
 - Confirmation

Maintaining Integrity of Program

- Characteristics of a good drug test
 - Scientifically valid
 - Therapeutically beneficial
 - Legally defensible

Common Types of Adulteration

- Dilution (e.g. water loading)
- Addition of a household chemical (e.g. bleach)
- Submission of another's specimen
- Use of diuretics
- Use of synthetic urine delivery devices (e.g. Whizzinator, Urinator, WizClear)



Protocols to Avert Adulteration

- Observation by witness of same sex
- Minimal volume requirements
- Limit amount of fluids consumed
- Establish time limit to produce sample

Procedures to Detect Tampering

- Observe:
 - Color-ensure it is urine
 - Appearance-things floating in it?
 - Odor-does it smell like apple juice?
 - Temperature-should be warm
 - pH
 - Specific gravity
 - Creatinine

TEST AND RELATED TIME	ADULTERATION COLOR COMPARISON CHART		
	ABNORMAL (LOW)	NORMAL	ABNORMAL (HIGH)
Creatinine (Cr) 45 seconds			
Nitrite (Ni) 45 seconds			
pH Immediate			
Bleach (Bl) 45 seconds			
Specific Gravity (S.G.) 60 seconds			



False Positives

- Presumptive positives will happen
 - Participants can dispute test results
 - No sanction unless confirmed
- Maintain records of prescribed medications to avoid any discrepancy
- Submit samples to lab for confirmation

Selection of Methods and Site

- Determine which drugs should be tested
 - Should not be limited to drugs of choice
- Establish location with privacy for witness observation
- Establish consistent testing times
- Drug testing policies and procedures should be written and shared with participants

Summary

- Efficient and accurate monitoring of drug court participant abstinence through use of effective drug detection protocols is crucial for long-term program effectiveness.
- Drug testing serves as a tool for treatment teams to direct appropriate interventions which support participant goals.
- Drug and alcohol testing provides an accurate, timely, and comprehensive assessment of unauthorized substance use throughout participants' enrollment in the Drug Court.