

Testing Notification

January 2017

Important Information for Providers

Important: Medical drug screens performed or sent out by Allina Health Laboratory CANNOT be ordered for employment or other non-medical purposes.

Drug screens performed or sent out by Allina Health Laboratory are inappropriate for non-medical purposes such as employment, internship, legal custody, school, insurance, or any outside agency.

Drug testing for outside companies, schools, or agencies has NO medical purpose and must be collected and performed outside of the medical setting, usually at a commercial lab. Because results of such non-medical drug testing can cause professional, educational, financial, social, or legal harm to an individual, the specimen must be collected and processed using secure procedures and tested in a laboratory with special certification. A certified Medical Review Officer must review all results before reporting. The positive cutoffs for non-medical drug screening are set much higher than medical drug screens to exclude low positives from normal exposure to poppy seed ingestion (morphine), hand sanitizers (alcohol metabolites), Vicks inhaler (L-amphetamine), secondary marijuana smoke, and other benign sources of positive drug screen results.

Allina Health Laboratory is strictly a patient care facility and cannot handle or process specimens for any non-medical testing. Medical drug screens are never appropriate for non-medical use and must be ordered only for direct care of a patient with a medical indication for testing, such acute mental status changes or monitoring for pain management or substance use disorder.

Individuals who need non-medical drug testing must obtain such testing outside of the medical setting and a physician order is not required. Usually the requesting employer, school, agency, etc. will provide instructions to the individual about where to go for drug screening. In other cases, the individual would need to contact a commercial laboratory that provides non-medical drug collection and testing, such as LabCorp (Edina), AnyLabTestNow (Plymouth) and others.

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