



CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICAL BULLETIN

To: Physicians, Advanced Practice Clinicians
Date: April 26, 2019
Subject: Oral Fluid Substance Testing

The Bassett Medical Center Laboratory has arranged for oral fluid substance abuse testing. This is not a replacement for random urine drug testing, but has utility in patients in the following circumstances:

- Individuals with ‘shy bladder’, anuria or dialysis patients
- Individuals suspected of diverting or tampering urine specimens
- Individuals who may be under the influence during an office visit

Specific oral fluid collection devices and instructions are available from the Bassett Medical Center Laboratory. Some clinics will receive a starter kit on Monday, April 29, 2019. The test is currently ordered as a Lab Miscellaneous (LAB101011, Quest oral fluid drug test). The turn-around-time is expected to be 3-5 days. Results will be in the chart as an attachment. Please consider the following factors before collecting oral fluid for drug testing.

Because salivary glands are highly perfused, drugs are rapidly transferred into the bloodstream. Thus, drugs tend to become detectable in oral fluid sooner than in urine, and become undetectable more rapidly as well. The parent drug can be determined in most cases. Some drugs, i.e. cocaine and heroin, have a very narrow detection window in oral fluid, but most remain for 24-50 hours after ingestion. Limited specimen volumes (<3mL) may preclude testing. The use of salivary stimulants should be avoided as these may change the pH of the fluid and the drug concentration.

Drug concentrations in oral fluid tend to be substantially lower than in urine, necessitating lower cut-off limits for defining positive results. Weakly basic drugs, i.e. benzodiazepines, tend to have especially low concentrations in oral fluid.

Drugs detected by this test are shown below.

Alcohol metabolite (ethyl sulfate)	Meprobamate, carisoprodol	Opioids: buprenorphine, codeine, dihydrocodeine, fentanyl, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, naloxone, norbuprenorphine, noroxycodone, norhydrocodone, oxycodone, oxymorphone, tapentadol, tramadol
Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	Methadone, EDDP	
Barbituates: amobarbital, butalbital, pentobarbital, Phenobarbital, secobarbital	Methylphenidate	
Benzodiazepines: alprazolam, chlordiazepoxide, clonazepam, diazepam, flunitrazepam, flurazepam, lorazepam, midazolam, nordiazepam, oxazepam, temazepam, triazolam	Naltrexone, betahydroxynaltrexone	
Cocaine, benzoylecgonine	Nicotine, cotinine	
Marijuana (THC)	Phencyclidine	
MDMA	Zoplidam	

Please contact the Laboratory at 607-547-3700 with any questions you may have.