

Prescribing Corner - Urine Toxicology Testing: How to use this tool in practice.

This material is adapted from the *Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Non-cancer Pain*:
<http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/>.

Common unexpected UDS results with possible explanations and actions to consider.			
	Unexpected result	Possible explanations	Actions for the physician
1	UDS <i>negative</i> for prescribed opioid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> False negative Non-compliance Diversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat test using chromatography; specify the drug of interest (e.g. oxycodone often missed by immunoassay). Take a detailed history of the patient's medication use for the preceding 7 days (e.g., could learn that patient ran out several days prior to test) Ask patient if they've given the drug to others. Monitor compliance with pill counts.
2	UDS <i>positive</i> for non-prescribed opioid or benzodiazepines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> False positive. Patient acquired opioids from other sources (double-doctoring, "street"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat UDS regularly. Ask the patient if they accessed opioids from other sources. Assess for opioid misuse/addiction (See Recommendation 12). Review/revise treatment agreement
3	UDS positive for illicit drugs (e.g., cocaine, cannabis).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> False positive. Patient is occasional user or addicted to the illicit drug. Cannabis is positive for patients taking dronabinol (Marinol®), THC:CBD (Sativex®) or using medical marijuana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat UDS regularly. Assess for abuse/addiction and refer for addiction treatment as appropriate Ask about medical prescription of dronabinol, THC:CBD or medical marijuana access program.
4	Urine creatinine is lower than 2-3 mmol/liter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient added water to sample. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat UDS Consider supervised collection or temperature testing Take a detailed history of the patient's medication use for the preceding 7 days Review/revise treatment agreement.
5	Urine sample is cold.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay in handling sample (urine cools within minutes). Patient added water to sample. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat UDS, consider supervised collection or temperature testing Take a detailed history of the patient's medication use for the preceding 7 days Review/revise treatment agreement.