

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: All Nova Scotia Physicians, All Central Zone Health Service Directors, Pain Management Units, Direction 180

From: Dr. Bassam A. Nassar, Director of Toxicology Section
Mr. Randy Veinotte, Esoteric Laboratory Manager

Date: December 19, 2017

Subject: Changes to Drugs of Abuse Testing: Addition of New Tests

Effective January 2, 2018, the Toxicology section of the Division of Clinical Chemistry will expand the list of Drugs of Abuse tests it offers by adding the following to its previously published test list (April 14, 2014):

Substance	Screening Cutoff (ng/mL)
Fentanyl	40
Norfentanyl (Fentanyl metabolite)	100
Buprenorphine	100
Norbuprenorphine (Buprenorphine metabolite)	140
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	60
Ritalinic Acid (Methylphenidate metabolite)	60
Oxymorphone	100

*Testing is done by Tandem Mass Spectrometry also known as Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry/Mass Spectrometry.

The primary purpose of this testing is specifically reserved for clinical treatment purposes. This does **not** include the following situations:

- investigation of suspected diversion of prescribed medications,
- screening for drugs of abuse in the workplace, or
- for insurance purposes.

These results have not undergone a quantitative confirmation step and accordingly they are not intended for use as evidence in any related proceedings or legal settings. Please note that this testing is not available on urgent or emergent (Stat) basis.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Nassar at 902-473-2225 (bassam.nassar@nshealth.ca) or Mr. Veinotte at 902-473-6678 (randy.veinotte@nshealth.ca)