

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Family and Child Services, Department of Correctional Services,
Department of Justice of Nova Scotia

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 and New Test Pricing

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

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

Please note that the inclusion of the additional drugs will increase reagent and labour costs and hence will result in the following changes in price:

- Screening for Drugs of Abuse will increase from \$71.11 to \$86.95 per sample.
- Confirmation of positive results will increase from \$49.83 to \$77.31 per sample.

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)