

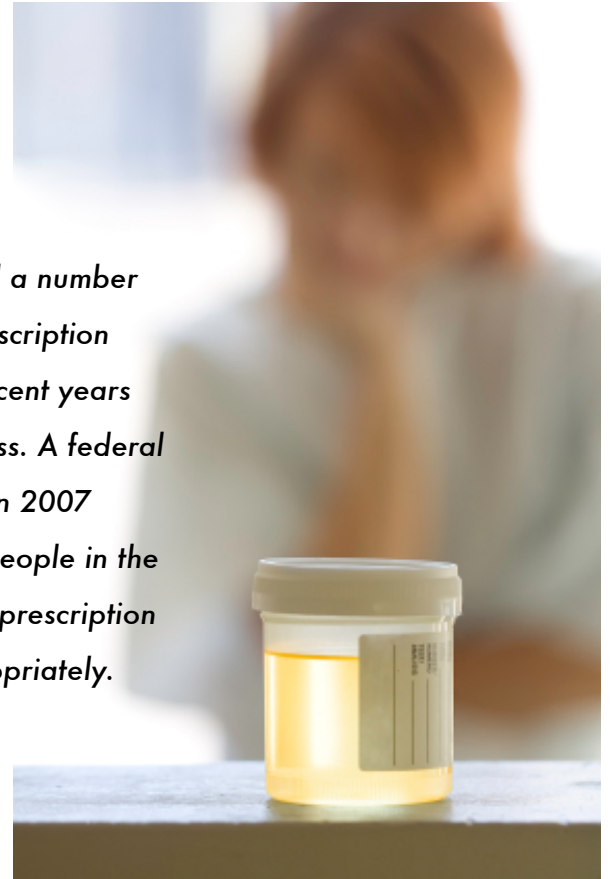
drug safety

Summer/Fall 2010



800-377-6481

The FDA has issued a number of warnings on prescription pain relievers in recent years but with little success. A federal survey conducted in 2007 found 5.2 million people in the US reported using prescription pain drugs inappropriately.



3 Reasons why Drug Testing is important for you and your patients

With so many things that take our time, it is easy to set aside the "important but not urgent" responsibilities. Here are three important reasons to maintain a consistent policy of drug safety in your clinic.

#1 Patient Safety – Monitor medication compliance including potentially dangerous drug interactions; Identify situations involving abuse, addiction and diversion so that the appropriate measures are taken.

#2 Protect the Physicians Liability – The Federation of State Medical Boards expects physicians to incorporate safeguards to minimize the potential for the abuse and diversion of Controlled Substances: The Federal Controlled Substances Act allows for civil and/or criminal prosecution of physicians whose patients abuse or divert controlled substances.

#3 Maximize Revenue – 2010 is a great year for drug

testing! 2 new CPT codes were introduced by CMS to allow reimbursement for urine drug testing. Physicians now have 2 reimbursable options to consider as part of your Drug Safety Program. Contact your local Summit representative for details on each option.



Why Confirm Urine Drug Screenings

Is Reference Laboratory Confirmation testing (GC/MS and LC/MS) really necessary?

- GC / LC MS methodology is the only legally defensible evidence of drug use.
- Allows for confirmation of exact drug, not just drug class.
- Provide quantitative results with exceptionally low cut-offs.
- Provides a confirmation of the screening outcome -this is vital for patient testing accuracy.



Emergency Room Crisis?

Visits to hospital emergency departments for abuse of pain drugs more than doubled between 2004 and 2008, jumping from 144,644 to 305,885 visits annually, according to a study released last month by the CDC and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The study found the greatest abuses among three types of narcotic pain relievers:

Oxycodone products
Hydrocodone products
Methadone products

Given these dramatic increases, some emergency departments are reevaluating their policies on narcotic distribution.

How To Decide When to Drug Test

A recent article in American Family Physician Magazine (March 2010) offers this advice for

determining which patients require drug testing:

- (when) writing a new prescription for a controlled substance
- (when there is) a history of substance misuse
- Before increasing patient's dosages of analgesics or referring patients to a pain or addiction specialist
- Random urine screenings in patients taking opioids for pain management may reveal abnormal findings, including absence of the opioid, presence of additional nonprescribed substances, and detection of illicit substances, and adulterated urine samples.

With the proliferation of prescribed drug abuse, the need for drug testing continues to grow. Make sure your clinic has a consistent plan in place to help ensure drug safety.

Drug Safety Updates:

Here is a short summary of new features that Summit now offers for our drug safety clients:

1. DEA Consultant is back!

Our friend and trusted advisor, John Mudri is back consulting with Summit Diagnostics. Mr. Mudri is a retired Bureau Chief of the DEA. He is an excellent resource for all of us to best understand DEA regulations and safe drug practices. We will be setting up educational phone conferences with Mr Mudri in the coming months, and we hope you'll join us for latest Drug Safety Topics!

2. Oral Fluids - getting to know the basics

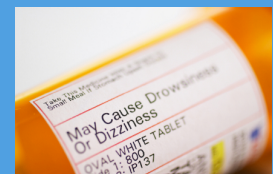
In recent years, oral fluids drug testing has become a very popular method of ensuring drug compliance. The ease of use (no bathroom required) and minimal change of adulteration have enabled drug testing in clinics where it was not possible before. If you are interested in Oral Fluids testing for your patients, your Summit account representative will be glad to help you.

3. Testing for Ethyl Sulphate available

Oral fluids testing for Ethyl Sulphate is now available. This test detects EtS in saliva, a chemical produced by the body after alcohol exposure. Let us know if you would like EtS testing added to your Oral Fluids testing panel.

Interesting Facts about the Controlled Substances Act

The term "controlled substances" includes



narcotics, stimulants, depressants, anti-anxiety medications, sleep aids, hallucinogens and anabolic steroids.