

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 1/4/2012	NUMBER: I-68.4
	Replaces: 06/08	
	Formulated: Reviewed: 04/2022	Page 1 of 2
MEDICAL CONSULTATION FOR THE INMATE DRUG TESTING PROGRAM		

INTRODUCTION

TDCJ carries out random screening of inmates for drugs of abuse. The program is administered by the Correctional Institutions Division.

Although the testing is a TDCJ program, when an inmate has a positive test result, the unit Drug Testing Coordinator (DTC) or their designee will consult with unit medical staff to determine whether the inmate is on a prescribed drug that is known to give a positive result on the drug test.

The role of medical staff is to report whether the inmate is prescribed or has recently been administered (by medical staff) a drug that is known to be detected by the test only. Medical staff are not expected to testify in disciplinary hearings regarding the interpretation of drug tests. They should not attempt to determine whether any prescribed medications might give a false positive result beyond documented cross-reactivity reported by the test manufacturer and listed in this policy.

Facility security staff should be referred to the table in this policy listing the drugs known to be detected or cross-react in drug tests.

These prescribed drugs are generally either in the same class as the drug being tested for (eg. prescribed codeine may give a positive result for an opiate drug screen), or closely related (ephedrine giving a positive result for amphetamine).

POLICY

When consulted by facility security staff regarding a positive urine drug screen on an inmate, unit medical staff will review the prescribed drugs for that inmate and inform the security officer when a prescribed drug is known to cause a positive result on the drug test.

PROCEDURES

- I. The DTC will submit the inmate's name, TDCJ number, date of test and drug detected by the test to the medical department, using the form in Attachment A.
- II. Unit medical staff will review the medications currently prescribed and those that have been administered from floor stock to determine whether any of the drugs given are known to give a positive result for the drug detected in the urine test (refer to Attachment B).

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	Replaces: 06/08	
	Formulated: Reviewed: 04/2022	Page 2 of 2
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- III. Medical staff will indicate the appropriate response and sign the form and return it to the DTC with a list of all drugs prescribed to the inmate by the medical department that could explain the positive result.

Reference: AD-03.21 Procedure for Controlled Substance Testing of Inmates