

SPECIMEN PROCESSING STEPS:

When the Specimen Arrives at ACL, lab techs accession the sample and then assign unique identification to each sample. Samples are aliquotted into sterile tubes as they undergo sterilization and validity testing.

Sample Preparation

Samples are prepared for Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) screens and for LC-MS/MS testing by going through a purification and extraction period. ACL has analytical technologies available for reporting qualitative and quantitative results, EIA, LC/MS/MS, and GC/MS. Using these methodologies allows for the most accurate interpretation of the existing compounds in the urine and saliva.

Initial Screening

Depending on the requesting physicians order, the samples are screened for 6-AM (HEROINE METABOLITE), AMP (AMPHETAMINES), BAR (BARBITURATES), BUPR (BUPRENORPHINE), BZD (BENZODIAZEPINES), CARI (CARISOPRODOL), COC (COCAINE), ETOH (ETHYL ALCOHOL), ETG (ETHYL GLUCURONIDE), FENT (FENTANYL), MTD (METHADONE), EDDP (METHADONE METABOLITE), MDMA (ECSTASY), MEP (MEPERIDINE), MAMP (METHAMPHETAMINE), OPI (OPIATES), OXY (OXYCODONE), PCP (PHENCYCLIDINE), PPX (PROPOXYPHENE), TAP (TAPENTADOL), TCA (TRICYCLICS), THC (MARIJUANA/CANNABINOIDS), TRA (TRAMADOL), ZOL (ZOLPIDEM) and any other tests that physicians have ordered.

Specimen Validity

In order to assure the integrity of the samples and that they are unadulterated, ACL will automatically run: CREATININE URINE, pH, OXIDANTS, and SPECIFIC GRAVITY unless specifically asked by the physician not to perform specimen validity tests.

Confirmatory Testing

When there are discrepancies and unexpected outcomes between the rapid Point of Care (POC) and the prescribed medications, then the specimen is set for LC/MS/MS or GC/MS confirmation testing. The exacting testing process is concluded by the analysis of data processed from the LC/MS/MS or GC/MS methodologies.

Results

All of the results are reviewed for accuracy before they are released from ACL to be available to the clients through fax, web based reporting, EMR or via courier services.

Oral Fluid Testing

Our reference laboratory provides extremely sensitive and proven cut-off levels for oral fluid confirmatory testing. Oral fluid cut-off levels are lower than the urine cut-off levels, because the window of detection in saliva is much shorter.