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), or any other tests that doctor's 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 technologies.

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.

Testing Policy

ACL shall perform tests requested by the physician as indicated on the requisition form. The test shall be performed in a timely manner and results reported to the physician within 72 hours of receipt.

In the unlikely event that there are technical difficulties that prevent the laboratory from completing testing in a timely manner and the instrument is expected to be non-operable for an extended period of time. We shall send the samples to a reference laboratory for testing.