

INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY URINE DRUGS & ABUSE SCREENING TESTS

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Urine testing results and detection periods.

Substance used	May be reported positive for one of or a combination of:	Typical detection period after use:
Heroin*	6-MAM, 'Opiates', morphine, codeine	6-24 hours 48 hours
Methadone	Methadone metabolite	7-9 days
Codeine	Codeine, (rarely morphine)	48 hours
Dihydrocodeine	Dihydrocodeine	48 hours
Amphetamine	Amphetamine	48 hours
Dexamphetamine*	Amphetamine	48 hours
Cocaine	Cocaine metabolite, Benzoylcegonine (BE)	2-3 days
Benzodiazepines	'Benzodiazepines' The metabolic pathways of many benzodiazepines are shared, and detection of one benzodiazepine (e.g. oxazepam) may indicate use of another (e.g. chlordiazepoxide)	Detection period is dependent on the elimination half-life of the particular benzodiazepine; e.g. detection period of temazepam is 40 to 60 hours and of diazepam is up to 7 days.
Cannabis	THC/cannabinoids	After single use: 3 days With daily use: up to 27 days

* Specialist tests are available to distinguish prescribed diamorphine from street heroin (desmethylpapaverine [McLachlan-Troup et al, 2001]), and street amphetamine from prescribed dexamphetamine (stereospecific assay for the laevorotatory-isomer).