

## Drug Screening – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Who is a MRO?**

A: A Medical Review Officer (“MRO”) is a person who is a licensed physician and who is responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.

A MRO provides quality assurance review of the drug testing process for the specimens under his/her purview, determine if there is a legitimate medical explanation for laboratory confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted and invalid drug test results, ensure the timely flow of test result and other information to employers and protect the confidentiality of the drug testing information.

### **Q: What is a chain of custody?**

A: A "Chain of Custody" refers to the document or paper trail showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis, and disposition of physical and electronic evidence. For drug testing, it is the course of action of documenting the management and storage of a specimen from the moment a donor gives the specimen to the collector to the final destination of the specimen and the review and reporting of the final result.

### **Q: Do candidates/employees need to bring a list of their medications with them?**

A: No, they are not required to bring a list of medications with them for the purposes of the drug screen. The MRO will follow up with the patient if he/she requires prescription information.

### **Q: Can a drug screen result be positive as a result of passive inhalation?**

A: No, Studies shows that passive inhalation fails to produce positive urine results.

### **Q: What is the average turnaround time for a drug screen?**

A: The average turnaround time for a Negative drug screen is 24-48 hours. A non-negative drug screen can take several days for results to get reported. The timing for testing any non-negative drug screen depends on the confirmation (GCMS) process as well as the length of time it takes the MRO to get in contact with the candidate. A typical turnaround is 72 to 96 hours.

### **Q: Should employers ask employees for a copy of their prescriptions?**

A: **No**, the MRO provides the employee with the opportunity to discuss the test result and submit a prescription if the is a legitimate medical explanation for the positive test result.

# The Drug Screen Workflow

