

Overview

Useful For

Confirming drug exposure involving amphetamines such as amphetamine and methamphetamine, phentermine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA), and methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)

Providing chain-of-custody for when the results of testing could be used in a court of law. Its purpose is to protect the rights of the individual contributing the specimen by demonstrating that it was under the control of personnel involved with testing the specimen at all times; this control implies that the opportunity for specimen tampering would be limited.

Additional Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
COCH	Chain of Custody Processing	No	Yes
ADLTX	Adulterants Survey, CoC, U	Yes	Yes

Testing Algorithm

Adulterants testing will be performed on all chain-of-custody urine samples as per regulatory requirements.

Method Name

AMPHX: Immunoassay/Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

ADLTX: Spectrophotometry (SP)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Urine

Specimen Required

Supplies: Chain of Custody Kit (T282)

Container/Tube: Chain of custody kit containing the specimen containers, seals, and documentation required

Specimen Volume: 5 mL

Collection Instructions: Collect specimen in the container provided, seal, and submit with the associated documentation to satisfy the legal requirements for chain-of-custody testing.

Additional Information: Submitting less than 5 mL will compromise the ability to perform all necessary testing.

Forms

- [Chain-of-Custody Request](#) is included in the Chain of Custody Kit (T282).
- If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Therapeutics Test Request](#) (T831) with the specimen.

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis OK
Gross icterus OK

Specimen Minimum Volume

1 mL

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive**Clinical Information**

Amphetamines are sympathomimetic amines that stimulate central nervous system activity and, in part, suppress the appetite. Phentermine, amphetamine, and methamphetamine are prescription drugs for weight loss. All of the other amphetamines are Class I (distribution prohibited) compounds. In addition to their medical use as anorectic drugs, they are used in the treatment of narcolepsy, attention-deficit disorder/attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and minimal brain dysfunction.

Because of their stimulant effects, the drugs are commonly sold illicitly and abused. Physiological symptoms associated with very high amounts of ingested amphetamine or methamphetamine include elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, hyperthermia, convulsions, and acute amphetamine psychosis.

Chain-of-custody is a record of the disposition of a specimen to document each individual who collected, handled, and performed the analysis. When a specimen is submitted in this manner, analysis will be performed in such a way that it will withstand regular court scrutiny.

Reference Values

Negative

Cutoff concentrations:

IMMUNOASSAY SCREEN: <500 ng/mL

Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry:

Amphetamine: <25 ng/mL

Methamphetamine: <25 ng/mL

Phentermine: <25 ng/mL

Methylenedioxyamphetamine: <25 ng/mL

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine: <25 ng/mL

Pseudoephedrine/ephedrine: <25 ng/mL reported as negative

Interpretation

The presence of amphetamines in urine at concentrations greater than 500 ng/mL is a strong indicator that the patient has used these drugs within the past 3 days.

This test will produce true-positive results for urine specimens collected from patients who are administered Adderall and Benzedrine (contain amphetamine); Desoxyn and Vicks Inhaler (contain methamphetamine); Selegiline (metabolized to methamphetamine and amphetamine); and clobenzorex, famprofazone, fenethylamine, fenproporex, and mefenorex, which are amphetamine pro-drugs.

Cautions

Over-the-counter sympathomimetics such as ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine are occasionally detected in the screening immunoassay.

Clinical Reference

1. Baselt RC: Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man. 10th ed. Biomedical Publications; 2014
2. Langman LJ et al: Clinical toxicology. In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. Elsevier; 2018:832-887
3. Principles of Forensic Toxicology. 2nd ed. AACC Press; 2003:385

Performance**Method Description**

Urine is preliminarily screened for the presence of amphetamine-type stimulants by immunoassay technique.

The amphetamine assay is based on the kinetic interaction of microparticles in a solution as measured by changes in light transmission. In the absence of sample drug, soluble drug conjugates bind to antibody-bound microparticles causing the formation of particle aggregates. As the aggregation reaction proceeds in the absence of sample drug, the absorbance increases. When a urine sample contains the drug in question, this drug competes with the drug derivative conjugate for microparticle-bound antibody. Antibody bound to sample drug is no longer available to promote particle aggregation, and subsequent particle lattice formation is inhibited. The presence of sample drug diminishes the increasing absorbance in proportion to the concentration of drug in the sample. Sample drug content is determined relative to the value obtained for a known cutoff concentration of drug. (Package insert: Roche Amphetamines. Roche Diagnostics; 06/2020)

The specimen is then diluted and then analyzed by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. (Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

Fees & Codes**Test Classification**

This test was developed, and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information

80324

80359

G0480 (if appropriate)