



**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY/PROCEDURE**

SUBJECT ON-SITE TESTING OF CLIENTS' BODILY SUBSTANCES FOR EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE	POLICY NO. 305.02	EFFECTIVE DATE 08/02/2010	PAGE 1 of 3
APPROVED BY:  Director	SUPERSEDES 202.13 08/02/2010	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE 08/02/2010	DISTRIBUTION LEVEL(S) 1, 2

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To establish guidelines for on-site testing of bodily substances obtained from Los Angeles County-Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH) clients for evidence of substances of abuse (drug testing).

DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Bodily substance:** Any body components or products collected for purposes of drug testing.
- 2.2 **On-Site Drug Testing:** The chemical, biological, or other physical analysis of a specimen of bodily substance by program staff to determine the presence or absence of specified drugs of abuse, or their metabolites, and any possible associated quantification.
- 2.3 **Drug Testing Supplies:** Includes any and all supplies used in the collection and testing of bodily substances. Includes, but is not limited to: disposable gloves, specimen cups, and drug testing dip cards.

POLICY

- 3.1 The purpose of on-site drug testing must be solely to inform the client of current therapeutic interventions and must be clearly specified and documented in the clinical record.
- 3.2 On-site drug testing is not definitive and must therefore never be used in place of validated testing from certified laboratories as a basis for decision-making in circumstances where such validation is necessary.
- 3.3 Only clients with identified risk for potential substance abuse may be drug tested on-site.



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- 3.4 Specific and documented consent for on-site drug testing is necessary, and must not be a precondition for receipt of mental health services. (See DMH Policy 305.01)
- 3.5 Results of on-site drug testing may not be used as a sole basis for denial of treatment or determination of the presence of any specific mental disorder.
- 3.6 Results of on-site drug testing may not be used as the sole basis for decisions to use or withhold coercive interventions.
- 3.7 All activities related to on-site drug testing, including acquisition, analysis, and disposal of specimens and recording of data must be conducted by specifically trained and authorized staff in compliance with written procedure.
- 3.8 On-site drug testing must be conducted in full compliance with applicable health and safety regulations.

PROCEDURE

- 4.1 A documented order (one time or standing) for on-site drug testing must be obtained from a LAC- DMH physician or LAC- DMH Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) and must be properly recorded in the clinical record.
 - 4.1.1 Standing orders shall indicate the specific test and the circumstances and/or schedule/frequency of administration.
- 4.2 Before the test is conducted, the client must sign the form “Consent to Provide a Specimen for On-Site Drug Testing” (See Hyperlink).
- 4.3 Acquisition, handling, and disposal of specimens are to be performed on an as needed basis by LAC-DMH staff members as designated by a clinical program head.
 - 4.3.1 Acquisition of specimens must be accomplished in circumstances appropriate to client dignity.



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4.3.2 Reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that specimens are not substituted or adulterated before analysis.

4.3.3 Transport, handling, and disposal of specimens must be compliant with applicable health and safety regulations.

4.3.3.1 After specimen analysis and recording of data, specimens must be immediately and properly disposed.

4.3.3.2 Substances free of blood must be disposed of in a toilet and flushed, and specimen containers must be disposed of in a regular garbage can as per Cal/OSHA guidelines [8 CCR, Section 5193].

4.3.3.3 Substances containing blood are considered potentially infectious and the fluid and container must be disposed of utilizing biohazard-red labeled containers as required under the Cal/OSHA blood borne pathogens standard [8 CCR, Section 5193].

4.4 Analysis of specimen: Analysis shall be accomplished by specifically trained and authorized staff in compliance with written procedure.

4.5 Recording of data from specimen analysis: The results of every on-site drug test must be entered into the Progress Notes section (Section 6) of the clinical record.

HYPERLINK

[Consent to Provide a Specimen for On-Site Drug Testing](#)

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

LAC-DMH-Office of the Medical Director