



Oral fluid drug testing

Delivering a convenient alternative
for healthcare providers

When you need an alternative

Quest Diagnostics knows that your needs can change and having more choices benefits you and your patients when monitoring for use or non-use of drugs. For those situations when urine collection is not practical, you now have an alternative — oral fluid.

Why use oral fluid testing?

Oral fluid collection is simple to do whether you choose your office or a Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Center. Collections can be completed in minutes, enabling you to monitor the collection.

Simple collection with Oral-Eze®

- This patented oral fluid collection device has a volume adequacy indicator window designed to take the guesswork out of sample collection
- The collection pad has no salty or citric taste, providing patient comfort
- The collection time typically takes about 5 minutes, reducing time in the office and improving patient convenience

Drug detection windows

Because salivary glands are highly perfused, a drug is transferred rapidly from blood to oral fluid. Thus, drugs tend to become detectable in oral fluid sooner than in urine, and become undetectable more rapidly as well. For some drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, the “detection window” for oral fluid can be as little as a few hours.

However, most drugs remain detectable for 24 to 50 hours after ingestion.¹ The exact timing of the detection window varies with the drug, duration of use, drug dose, individual metabolism, and method of administration, among other variables.

Drug concentrations

Drug concentrations in oral fluid tend to be substantially lower than in urine, necessitating lower cutoffs for defining positive results. Weakly basic drugs, such as benzodiazepines, tend to have especially low concentrations in oral fluid.² Detection of drugs in oral fluid thus requires highly sensitive approaches,³ such as the liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) method used by Quest Diagnostics.



Advantages and Disadvantages of Oral Fluid Relative to Urine²⁻⁶

Advantages of Oral Fluid	Disadvantages of Oral Fluid
Noninvasive, easy collection	Shorter window of detection after drug use
Provides option for individuals with “shy bladder” or anuria or who are undergoing dialysis	Lower drug concentrations in specimen
Specimen adulteration or substitution less likely due to conveniently observed collection	Limited specimen volume (typically ≤ 3 mL) may preclude repeated tests
Preserves patient dignity when observed specimen collection is required	Potential for lack of fluid due to physiologic (eg, dry mouth syndrome) or other reasons
Parent drug can be determined in most cases	Residual drug in mouth soon after inhalation/smoking/ingestion may contaminate specimen, leading to artificially high concentrations
Provides detection of recent exposure	
May detect residual drug in the mouth soon after inhalation/smoking (eg, cocaine or marijuana)	

Ordering information

In addition to the individual tests listed below, Quest offers two panels for oral fluid testing:

36862 Drug Tox Monitoring Base Panel with Confirmation, Oral Components

Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Marijuana, Methadone, and Opioids

93975 Drug Tox Monitoring Panel 1 with Confirmation, Oral

Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Marijuana, MDMA, Meprobamate, Methadone, Nicotine, Opioids, Phencyclidine, and Zolpidem

Oral Fluid: Test List with Test Codes

Test Code	Drug Class	Reportable Drugs and Metabolites	Cutoff (ng/mL)	Test Code	Drug Class	Reportable Drugs and Metabolites	Cutoff (ng/mL)
93976	Alcohol Metabolite	Ethyl Sulfate (EtS)	25.0	93984	Methadone	EDDP	5
93977	Amphetamines	Amphetamine	10			Methadone	5
		Methamphetamine	10	93974	Methylphenidate	Methylphenidate	1.0
93978	Barbiturates	Amobarbital	10	93985	Naltrexone	Betahydroxynaltrexone	0.25
		Butalbital	10			Naltrexone	0.25
		Pentobarbital	10	93986	Nicotine	Cotinine	5
		Phenobarbital	25	93987	Opioids	Buprenorphine	0.1
		Secobarbital	10			Codeine	2.5
93979	Benzodiazepines	Alprazolam	0.5			Dihydrocodeine	2.5
		Chlordiazepoxide	0.5			Fentanyl	0.1
		Clonazepam	0.5			Heroin	1
		Diazepam	0.5			Hydrocodone	2.5
		Flunitrazepam	0.5			Hydromorphone	2.5
		Flurazepam	0.5			Morphine	2.5
		Lorazepam	0.5			Naloxone	0.25
		Midazolam	0.5			Norbuprenorphine	0.5
		Nordiazepam	0.5		Noroxycodone	2.5	
		Oxazepam	0.5		Norhydrocodone	2.5	
	Temazepam	0.5		Oxycodone	2.5		
	Triazolam	0.5		Oxymorphone	2.5		
93980	Cocaine	Benzoyllecgonine	5.0		Tapentadol	5	
		Cocaine	5.0		Tramadol	5	
93981	Marijuana	THC	2.5	93988	Phencyclidine	Phencyclidine	10
93982	MDMA	MDMA	10	93990	Zolpidem	Zolpidem	5
93983	Meprobamate	Carisoprodol	2.5				
		Meprobamate	2.5				

Quest Diagnostics Clinical Drug Monitoring

Quest Diagnostics is a trusted laboratory committed to providing responsible, cost-conscious clinical drug monitoring services for pain specialists.

Our approach, tools, and technologies help minimize over-testing.

We efficiently deliver insights that can help you and your patients make more informed decisions.



A trusted leader in diagnostic testing for more than 50 years



State-of-the-art testing with enhanced sensitivity



MDs, PhDs, and toxicologists to help with results interpretation

The power of Quest at your fingertips

Vital information you need

- Quest Diagnostics delivers healthcare insights when and where you need them in order to make informed decisions that can lead to better outcomes
- Our comprehensive menu of tests was built with the varied needs of you and your patients in mind

Responsiveness you expect

- Nationwide courier service includes prompt sample pickups
- Fast lab turnaround times help ensure timely screening and confirmation results

Resources you can access

- Manage all of your laboratory needs with a single login. With Quantum™ for Healthcare Professionals, you can simplify your practice operations and save your staff time
- Patients can visit one of over 2,200 conveniently located Patient Service Centers across the country to have their specimen collected

Drug toxicology consultation—our experts are available by phone:

- **Drug monitoring menu, options, and services**—discuss test selection, sample requirements, and whether to choose medMATCH®
- **Drug monitoring results inquiries and interpretation**—discuss basic result interpretation, consider adding additional substances to the test, or request repeats
- **Drug monitoring consultation scheduling**—schedule a call with appropriate experts on more complex questions



1.877.40.RXTOX (1.877.407.9869) | Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM–10:00 PM EST

Learn more by talking with your sales representative or visit [QuestDrugMonitoring.com](https://www.questdiagnostics.com/questdrugmonitoring).

References

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Models used for illustrative purposes.

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