



To: Submitting Physicians and other Providers

From: John G. Newby, M.D.
Medical Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Newby".

Subject: Change in Cut-off value for opiates in drugs of abuse testing

Beginning Wednesday, April 14, 2010, Hagerstown Medical Laboratory will change the cut-off value for opiates in the Drugs of Abuse Screen (DASC) from 2000 ng/mL to 300 ng/mL. The 2000 ng/mL cut-off limit is used by the Department of Transportation for legal purposes. The 300 ng/mL limit is more appropriate for medical purposes, which is the intended use of the drugs of abuse screen. Note that even with the lower cut-off value for opiates, the assay will not consistently detect therapeutic oxycodone use. A retroactive review of results for your clients indicate that approximately 10% of your clients with previously negative screens will now be positive for the lower cut-off value for opiates.

Propoxyphene will be dropped from the screen on that date as well. The table at the bottom of the memo represents the sensitivity limits for the assays that will now comprise the drugs of abuse screen.

The drug screens performed at HML are qualitative assays only, no confirmations are performed. Specimens are retained for 7 days. If confirmatory testing is indicated, please notify the lab as soon as the report is received.

Any questions regarding this change in reporting may be referred to me or to HML's Chemistry Technical Specialist, Myrna Hale, at 301-665-4983.

<u>TEST</u>	<u>SENSITIVITY LIMITS</u>
Amphetamines	1000 ng/mL
Cocaine Metabolites	300 ng/mL
Opiates	300 ng/mL
Marijuana Metabolite	50 ng/mL
Phencyclidine	25 ng/mL
Benzodiazepines	200 ng/mL
Barbiturates	200 ng/mL