



## Toxicology Compliance Testing for Oxycodone, Morphine, and Methadone

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The opioid narcotic analgesics oxycodone and morphine, along with the non-opioid narcotic analgesic, methadone, can be effective tools in the management of chronic, severe or terminal pain. However, the pharmacology and the availability of these prescription medications render them highly susceptible to abuse or diversion.

Recently, many physicians and health care providers we service have expressed concern about their ability to monitor patients for abuse, compliance, and diversion. As a response to help meet this need, we are now offering tests which allow the most sensitive measurement possible of these three compounds, with current state-of-the-art instrumentation, GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry). Our goal is to offer another tool to assist health care providers in evaluating the course of treatment for their patients. Because the concentration of drug in the urine indicates only that the drug was ingested, not when or how much, quantitative values for oxycodone, methadone, and morphine compliance testing are not reported.

### Technical Notes and Limitations

Urine is one of the best matrices for compliance monitoring for many reasons, including specimen availability, non-invasiveness, and appropriate window of detection of one to six days. Blood is invasive and may not be a sensitive enough matrix, while hair offers too large of a detection window that varies greatly among individuals. However, urine concentration of these drugs varies with degree of patient hydration and the individual's metabolism. Failure of the laboratory to detect one of these three compounds may not necessarily indicate the patient is not in compliance and should be weighed against clinical history, symptoms, and behavior.

### References

1. Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man, R. Baselt, ed., 5th edition, Chemical Toxicology Institute, Foster City, CA
2. Physician's Desk Reference, 55th ed., Medical Economics, Thomson Healthcare. Revised April 4, 2002

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*For more information, please contact  
your local representative.*

### Quick Facts

- ▶ Abuse and diversion of oxycodone (especially Oxycontin) is on the increase in the Northwest.
- ▶ Urine is the preferred specimen for detection of abuse and compliance monitoring.
- ▶ Detection window for urine is approximately one to six days.
- ▶ CPOXY (oxycodone), CPMORP (morphine) and CPMETD (methadone) are the available choices for compliance monitoring.

For more information, please  
contact Client Services or  
see us on the Web at



## Test Information

**DESCRIPTION COMPLIANCE CONFIRM FOR OXYCODONE**  
**METHOD GC/MS**  
**ORDER CODE CPOXY**  
**CPT CODE 80102**  
**SPECIMEN** 30 ml urine randomly collected in a leak-proof plastic urine container. Store and transport at room temperature.  
**COMMENTS** *Minimum amount:* 5 mL  
*Unacceptable conditions:* blood, serum, or plasma samples  
*Stability:* 14 days refrigerated  
**SCHEDULE** Monday – Saturday  
**TURNAROUND** 24-36 hours from receipt of specimen  
**RANGES** Compound detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection  
Compound not detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection

**DESCRIPTION COMPLIANCE CONFIRM FOR MORPHINE**  
**METHOD GC/MS**  
**ORDER CODE CPMORP**  
**CPT CODE 80102**  
**SPECIMEN** 30 ml urine randomly collected in a leak-proof plastic urine container. Store and transport at room temperature.  
**COMMENTS** *Minimum amount:* 5 mL  
*Unacceptable conditions:* blood, serum, or plasma samples  
*Stability:* 14 days refrigerated  
**SCHEDULE** Monday – Saturday  
**TURNAROUND** 24-36 hours from receipt of specimen  
**RANGES** Compound detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection  
Compound not detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection

**DESCRIPTION COMPLIANCE CONFIRM FOR METHADONE**  
**METHOD GC/MS**  
**ORDER CODE CPMETD**  
**CPT CODE 80102**  
**SPECIMEN** 30 ml urine randomly collected in a leak-proof plastic urine container. Store and transport at room temperature.  
**COMMENTS** *Minimum amount:* 5 mL  
*Unacceptable conditions:* blood, serum, or plasma samples  
*Stability:* 14 days refrigerated  
**SCHEDULE** Monday – Saturday  
**TURNAROUND** 24-36 hours from receipt of specimen  
**RANGES** Compound detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection  
Compound not detected at or above GC/MS limit of detection