



**February 6, 2017**

To: Physicians and Nurse Managers

From: John Gao, M.D.  
Medical Director, Laboratory  
Kim Cruise, MT (ASCP)  
Director, Clinical Lab

Re: Confirmatory Testing on Presumptive Positive Toxicology Screen Changes

The Laboratory Test Utilization Committee has reviewed the value of providing automatic reflex confirmatory toxicology testing on all presumptive positive urine toxicology drugs of abuse screens (Drug Screening) on inpatients and emergency department patients.

In the recent past, any specimen that yielded a positive drugs of abuse screen, performed in our laboratory, was automatically sent to our reference laboratory for confirmation by an alternate testing method. It is agreed that the confirmation added little to no value for patient diagnosis or disposition.

Effective February 13, 2017 the Department of Laboratory Medicine will no longer automatically reflex toxicology confirmations on specimens with positive screen results on inpatients and emergency department patients. If confirmation of an unconfirmed (presumptive positive) test is clinically needed, an order must be sent to lab for the additional testing. Requests for specific confirmation testing should be placed using the "Message Lab" order indicating the specific confirmation testing needed. Specimens will be held for seven (7) days from the original testing date. Outpatient confirmatory testing on presumptive positive toxicology specimens will be unaffected by this change.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Barnes, M.D. at (217) 788-3060.