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Benzodiazepine Interpretation Aids

Benzodiazepines are extensively metabolized, and the parent compounds may not be detected in urine. Alprazolam, clonazepam, and midazolam each have one major metabolite. These are alphahydroxyalprazolam, alphahydroxymidazolam, and 7-aminoclonazepam, respectively. In contrast, diazepam (Valium®) forms three measurable metabolites: nordiazepam, oxazepam, and temazepam. A patient on diazepam may test positive for all of these.

Benzodiazepine Cut-off and Approximate Urine Detection Times		
Drug/Metabolite	LC-MS/MS Cut-off (ng/mL)	Approximate Urine Drug Detection Window
Alprazolam	50	1-4 days
Alpha-hydroxyalprazolam	50	
Flunitrazepam	50	1-4 days
7-Aminoflunitrazepam	50	
Clonazepam	10	1-4 days
7-Aminoclonazepam	50	
Flurazepam	50	1-2 days
Hydroxyethylflurazepam	50	
Midazolam	50	1-2 days
Alpha-hydroxymidazolam	50	
Diazepam	10	1-7 days
Nordiazepam	50	1-10 days
Lorazepam	50	1-7 days
Lorazepam-glucuronide	50	
Oxazepam	50	1-7 days
Oxazepam-glucuronide	50	
Temazepam	50	1-4 days
Temazepam-glucuronide	50	
Triazolam	50	1-2 days



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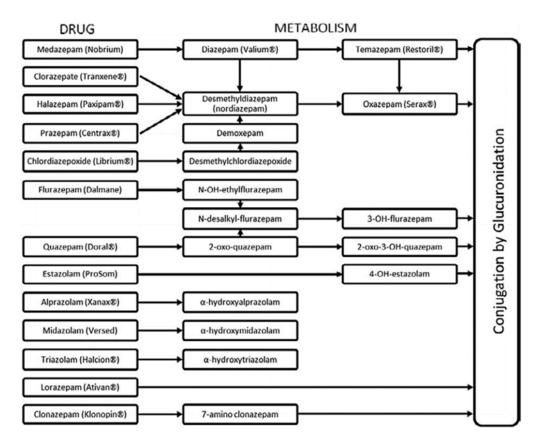


Image from Pesce, A., et al. Interpretation of Urine Drug Testing in Pain Patients. Pain Medicine 2012;13:868-885.