

PROVIDER ALERT

Date: April 19, 2010

To: All Project SAFE Providers: Executive Directors, PS Clinicians, and Claims Staff

From: Samuel Moy, Ph.D., CEO and Interim Project SAFE Director
Holly Hassett, MA, MA, NCC, LPC Assistant Program Director, Project SAFE

CC: Peter Panzarella, DCF Substance Abuse Specialists

Re: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Project SAFE Urine Toxicology Process

In response to a policy decision made by DCF and DMHAS, Project SAFE made a change in the urine toxicology process (drug testing) and the reimbursement process for such testing effective November 23, 2009. Project SAFE is currently using Noble Medical's Split-Specimen Cup®. Information introducing this process was provided in a memo dated October 30, 2009.

While many providers have found the change to the Noble Cup testing that provides instant results helpful, several questions about the process have been raised. This memo is intended to provide responses to these questions to all Project SAFE providers and referral sources. Please share this information with all staff that are working directly with Project SAFE clients. The third section is specific to claims submission and will be helpful to the staff involved in the claims process.

A. Drug Screens – Instant

1. *What substances are being tested for using the Noble Split-Specimen Cup®?*

Amphetamines, Cocaine, Opiates, PCP, and THC (Marijuana)

2. *Is there a methodology for testing other substances that is reimbursable through Project SAFE?*

Currently, this is the only methodology for urine drug testing through Project SAFE. ABH® and DCF are exploring options for the testing of benzodiazepines.

3. *How should staff be trained to use the Split-Specimen Cup®?*

- a. Review the Split-Specimen Cup® Procedure Card and on-line video training at http://www.noblemedical.com/training/split_specimen_cup_video.html. Staff may find it helpful to review this training again after using the cups a few times. The on-line training takes approximately 5 – 10 minutes.
- b. *Note:* Noble Medical has a post-training test that they can provide your organization. This test can be completed by staff and returned to Noble Medical

who will provide a certificate of training. This is not required, but is a voluntary service for your organization.

4. Sometimes the results are very light, how should these be read?

According to the Noble training, even very light lines are valid. Light lines on the drug line should be considered negative for the drug tested.

5. What if the Split-Specimen Cup results indicate the results are invalid?

In a small number of cases, one or more substances may be invalid. If the reading on one or more of the substances is invalid, ask the client to transfer the specimen into a new Split-Specimen Cup for a second testing. If you believe you have multiple invalid test results, please contact ABH® staff at Project SAFE.

6. What is the best way to record the drug screen results?

The Split-Specimen cup has a flat surface that can be placed on a copier to copy the results. Some providers have found that they need to adjust the lightness/darkness on the copier. Once the results appear, they will remain visible for approximately 60 minutes. The urine sample can be discarded prior to placing the cup on the copy machine **if** the sample is not being sent out to the lab for confirmation.

The attached document, **Project SAFE Alcohol and Drug Screening Report** can be used to review the client's self-report for substance use and to record the results of the Split-Specimen Cup® and lab confirmation, if done. If this form is used, providers must still make and retain a copy of the cup results in their files.

B. Drug Screen – Confirmation(s)

7. When can/should a positive screen be sent out for confirmation?

Confirmation(s) should only be used in the following two situations:

- a. If the Split-specimen Cup® is positive for one or more substances and the client denies use, the specimen should be sent to the lab for confirmation for those substances with a positive result; **or**
- b. If the client tests positive for opiates and provides a recent prescription for a medication that explains this result, it is recommended that the specimen be sent out for confirmation with “extended opiates” in the remark section (Step 2) at least once to confirm that this is the substance showing in the results.

8. What if the instant drug test is positive for one or more substances and the client denies use?

Positive results in the Noble Split Specimen cup are considered presumptive and should be sent out to the ACL laboratories for GC/MS Confirmation when the client denies use. The process and materials for this can be obtained from Noble Medical.

9. Is there a way to receive ‘levels’ on positive screens?

When sending the sample for confirmation, there is a ‘remark’ section in Step 2 of the Chain of Custody Form where you can request ‘specific drug levels’. This may be helpful in tracking THC levels over multiple samples.

10. Does the confirmation test for synthetic opiates?

To test for synthetic opiates, in Step 2 of the confirmation slip under ‘remarks’ write in a request for “extended opiates.” This tests for all narcotic metabolites other than the codeine, morphine, and heroin. A separate authorization from DCF is not required for this confirmation.

11. The Split-Specimen cup® was positive, but the lab confirmation was negative. How should this be reported?

The split specimen cup results are considered presumptive and the GC/MS confirmation provided by ACL Laboratories are considered the final results.

12. What if clients choose to dispute the results of the Split-Specimen Cup® at a later point in time?

The opportunity for the client to contest the UDS results occurs when the staff person reviews the results with the client at the time of the original testing and results.

III. Claims Submission

1. Authorizations will be faxed to your agency based upon referrals from DCF, as always.
2. Referrals for urine drug testing will authorized for a **Drug Screen – Instant** and a **Drug Screen – Substance Confirmation(s), as needed.**
3. Claims should continue to be submitted through ABH®’s web based system, which has recently been updated to allow claims for multiple confirmations (as needed) on the same date of service.
4. For multiple confirmations billed on the same date of service, please add under the remarks section “substance # 1”, “Substance # 2”, etc.

For any additional questions, please contact:

General questions:

- Holly Hassett, MA, MA, NCC, LPC Assistant Program Director, Project SAFE
Tel. (860) 704-6294 email: hhassett@abhct.com

Questions regarding Project SAFE referrals:

- Project SAFE referral line – 1-800- 272-0097

Claims questions:

- Sharron Janowski, Project SAFE Claims Coordinator
Tel. (860) 704-6144 email: sjanowski@abhct.com

Ordering supplies:

- Denise Kalinoski-Beckman at Noble Medical, Inc.
Tel. (414) 431-0163 email: denise@noblemedical.com