CLINICAL UPDATE

Specimen validity testing

Clinical drug testing provides clinicians with information relevant to the treatment of patients who are prescribed controlled substances, including opioid pain medications, antianxiety medications, stimulants and medications to treat substance use disorder. The interpretation of urine drug testing can be complicated by attempted falsification actions such as specimen adulteration or substitution with synthetic urine.

Urine specimen validity testing is performed to evaluate the integrity of the specimen. With an ever-changing landscape of products available for purchase to "pass a urine test," specimen validity is an important tool which serves as an alert if results indicate the specimen has been adulterated or is inconsistent with human urine.

Labcorp's enhanced specimen validity testing

Labcorp's Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), ToxAssure®, and ToxAssure Flex® product lines include industry-leading specimen validity testing developed by Labcorp. In addition to standard validity testing of creatinine, pH and nitrites, a robust series of normal human urinary biomarkers is monitored to distinguish human urine from synthetic urine products.

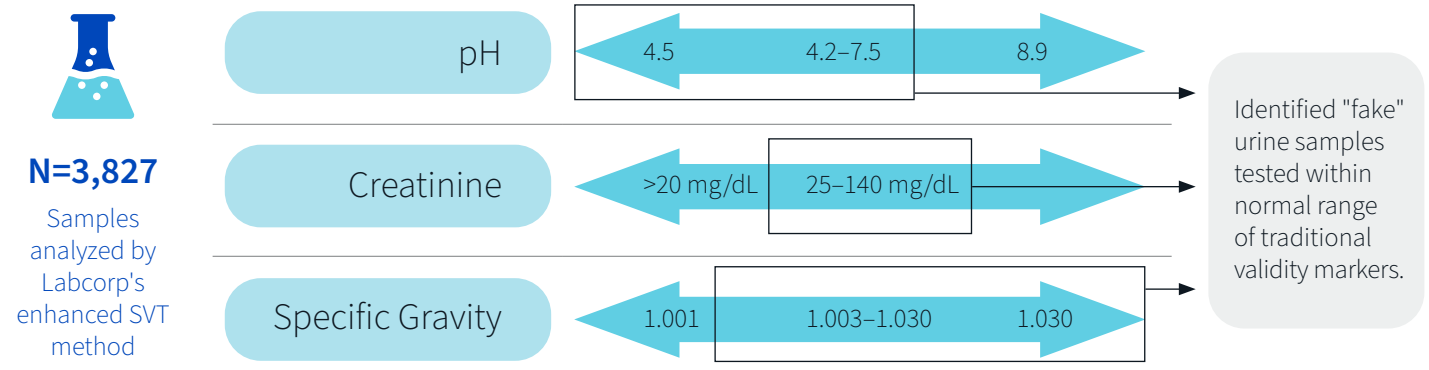
In a published study of 3,827 samples, 75 samples (2%) were identified as non-human urine specimens that passed traditional creatinine, pH and specific gravity criteria.[1]

There is no additional charge billed for enhanced specimen validity testing.

Why this matters

There is a thriving industry of synthetic urine substitutes widely available to patients who wish to obscure non-compliance. These products are designed to pass standard validity testing and are often spiked with the medications expected to be present. Failing to recognize these contrived specimens could impact patient outcomes if medication misuse or ongoing substance use goes unrecognized.

With commitment and scientific knowledge Labcorp is positioned to proactively provide reliable, actionable results to clinicians which will further inform their treatment decisions in efforts to improve patient outcomes.



References
1. Goggin MM, Tann CM, Miller A, Nguyen A, Janis GC. Catching Fakes: New Markers of Urine Sample Validity and Invalidity. *J Anal Toxicol*. 2017 Mar 1;41(2):121-126.

For more information, please contact our clinical toxicology support line **877-474-5767** or **clinicaldrugtesting@labcorp.com**.

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