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Guidelines for Urine Drug Monitoring

Given the difficulty in identifying drug use behaviors with subjective data, all claimants who are prescribed a short-or long-acting opioid for long term pain management (defined as beyond the acute phase and/or greater than 3 months) will be drug tested at specified intervals and as requested by the Division. The monitoring policy shall be made clear to the claimant during the initial office visit. A written agreement is preferred although not required.

- All aspects of urine drug monitoring will be managed by the Nurse Case Manager and the Analyst
- Monitoring shall include illicit drugs (cocaine, amphetamines, and methamphetamines), alcohol, all current medications prescribed, and other commonly prescribed opiates.
- Testing shall be completed by a certified laboratory.
- A quantitative analysis may be required if the findings are inconsistent with prescribed therapy.
- Testing will be done at least every 12 months for low risk claimants, every 3-6 months for high risk claimants, and at the discretion of the Division.
- If the results indicate the prescribed drug(s) not detected, an illicit drug is detected, or a non-prescribed scheduled drug or a drug of concern is detected, the provider will document the discussion with the claimant and any subsequent actions, to include but not limited to:
 - Maintain current therapy and document justification.
 - Change therapy/discontinue opioids.
 - Consider outcomes of retention vs. discharge from the practice.
 - Communicate with other providers as appropriate.
 - Limit supply; select drug with low street value; schedule more frequent visits; schedule more frequent urine drug testing.
 - Consult a pain specialist; consider substance abuse specialist.
- If the claimant refuses to submit to drug testing, compensation for the opioids may be suspended until the testing is completed.
- If the physician does not comply with the request for drug testing, further compensation may be denied until the testing is completed. The claimant will be notified by the Division.
- Any results positive for illicit drugs or not consistent with the prescribed therapy will be sent to the NCM for review.

