



**The Pathology Laboratory, Inc.**  
830 West Bayou Pines Dr.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 436-9557 Fax (337) 312-1311  
www.thepathlab.com

Lehrue Stevens, Jr., M.D., Emeritus  
Gault Townsend, M.D., Emeritus  
Regina Burton, M.D.

Paula Eapen, M.D.  
Brandi Kelly, M.D.  
Thad Primeaux, M.D.

Stephanie Richard, M.D.  
Robert Rumsey, M.D.  
John VanHoose, M.D.

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Drug Screen Testing and Clients

**\*\* NOTICE: Drug screen testing is typically a urine specimen, unless otherwise indicated. \*\***

**Q: How do I set up a drug screen account?**

A: Call The Pathology Laboratory at 337.436.9557 and state that you would like to set up a drug screen account. You will be asked a series of questions by the receptionist that will help decide what type of drug screen testing is required.

**Q: How much does drug screen testing cost?**

A: Call The Pathology Laboratory at 337.436.9557 to request the cost for drug screen testing.

**Q: What types of drug screen tests are offered?**

A: The Pathology Laboratory performs non-forensic (non-Federal) and standard prescription management drug screens in-house. All confirmation tests are sent to a SAMHSA certified laboratory. Federal, forensic, comprehensive prescription management, and other drug screen tests are sent out to a reference laboratory.

**Q: What is the difference between a non-forensic and prescription management drug screen test?**

A: A non-forensic drug screen has higher cut off levels. A prescription management drug screen has lower cut off levels. There is also a difference in what drugs are tested in each panel.

**Q: What drug screen tests are performed at The Pathology Laboratory?**

A: Urine: Amphetamine, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Opiates, Propoxyphene, Phencyclidine, Methadone, Methaqualone, Marijuana, Oxycodone and Ethanol  
Serum: Ethanol ONLY

**Q: What drug screen tests are performed at the reference laboratory?**

A: Urine: *Recommended Specimen of Choice for the drug screen tests below.*

- Bath Salts
- Synthetic THC (Marijuana)
- Kratom
- Comprehensive Prescription Management Panel
- DOT (Amphetamines, Opiates and **semi synthetics: hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone**, Cocaine, Phencyclidine, and Marijuana)

*“Providing High Quality Pathology Services, With Superior Customer Satisfaction”*

- Confirmations performed by mass spectrophotometry

Hair: *Detection window can be up to 3 months.*

Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Propoxyphene, Methadone, Opiates, Methamphetamine/MDMA, Marijuana, Phencyclidine and Cocaine

Serum: *Not a recommended specimen of choice due to short detection window.*

Amphetamine, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Opiates, Propoxyphene, Phencyclidine, Methadone, Marijuana

**Q: Will Marijuana testing performed by Path Lab indicate if Synthetic Marijuana is present?**

A: No it will not. This testing must be performed by another lab.

**Q: What agencies are subject to DOT testing?**

A: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)  
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)  
United States Coast Guard (USCG)

**Q: What is an MRO and when are they required?**

A: MRO stands for Medical Review Officer. An MRO is a licensed physician who is responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug screen test results. An MRO is always required when legal action is to be taken against the donor.

**Q: Does The Pathology Laboratory offer MRO services?**

A: Yes. The Pathology Laboratory has two certified MROs that provide services for the convenience of our clients.

**Q: May the client have a relationship with another laboratory for drug screen testing?**

A: Yes. The Pathology Laboratory will provide specimen collection only and bill accordingly.

**Q: Do I need a doctor's order for drug screen testing?**

A: No. All drug screens performed by The Pathology Laboratory are considered Direct to Consumer (DTC) tests. Other drug screen tests available without a doctor's order that are performed by a reference laboratory include bath salts, synthetic marijuana, hair testing, and prescription management profiles.

**Q: May DTC testing be collected offsite and dropped off at the Pathology Lab for testing?**

A: No. Specimens must be collected onsite to verify the identity of the specimen source. All donors must provide permission for testing. Onsite collection provides this verification.

**Q: What happens if the drug screen test results are non-negative?**

A: The answer depends on what type of testing is ordered. If legal action is to be taken, an MRO will need to review the results for proper interpretation.

**Q: How do I verify if an MRO is utilized?**

A: This is handled in two ways. If testing is performed by The Pathology Laboratory, this information is obtained when the account is set up. If testing is handled by another laboratory, this should be discussed when the account is created with the testing reference laboratory.

**Q: Who is testing reported to?**

A: Testing is reported to the ORDERING CLIENT when ordered by a CLIENT.  
Testing is reported to the PARENT if the donor is a MINOR (under 17 years old).  
Testing is reported to the DONOR if the donor is an ADULT.

**Q: May the donor request a copy of his/her results?**

A: Yes. If ordered by a client, the donor must wait 72 hours after test results have been released. The client will be informed that a copy was given to the donor. If ordered by the donor, they may receive a copy once testing is complete.

**Q: Are all non-negative results automatically confirmed?**

A: No, this is decided when the account is set up. The Pathology Laboratory only automatically confirms random drug screen tests in which we are the MRO.

**Q: What is the best specimen type to submit for drug screen testing?**

A: It depends on the situation. Urine detection time is typically a few days, whereas hair testing may be up to 3 months depending on the drug. Serum tests have the shortest detection time.