



Royal Medical

Oral Fluid and Urine Testing Comparison Chart

ORAL FLUID

SETTING

Ideal for settings that require convenient, gender-neutral collections (i.e. workplace, corrections, etc.)

COLLECTION PROCESS

Easy gender-neutral collections. No special facilities required so can be performed onsite and fully observed.

ADULTERATION

As collection can be fully observed, there is little chance of specimen adulteration.

DETECTION WINDOW

Most suited for recent drug use (4-24 hours). Estimates are subject to drug, amount, and frequency of use.

MULTIPLE SPECIMENS

Secondary specimens can be obtained immediately or within minutes of donor's dry mouth.

PRICE

Cost effective when considering additional overhead costs associated with urine collections (i.e. required facilities, collection time, bluing tablets, gender-specific staff, etc.)



URINE

SETTING

Traditionally used for workplace and health care. Ideal for organisations that need to test a wide range of drugs.

COLLECTION PROCESS

Depending on organisational requirement, the collection may be gender specific and observed. Restroom facilities required. Some donors experience issues with "shy bladder".

ADULTERATION

Possibility for adulteration if collection is not observed. Test kit with inbuilt specimen validity (adulteration) testing recommended.

DETECTION WINDOW

Best suited to historical drug use (1-20 days). Estimates are subject to drug, amount, and frequency of use.

MULTIPLE SPECIMENS

Donor may be unable to immediately provide secondary specimen if required.

PRICE

When comparing the tests themselves, urine is the least expensive testing method and offers a wider variety of tests.



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ONSITE TESTING DEVICES

ORAL FLUID

URINE

TEST METHOD

Lateral flow immunoassay technology targets parent drugs and drug metabolites in oral fluid.

Lateral flow immunoassay technology targets the drug metabolites in urine.

ACCURACY

Preliminary qualitative screen result. Confirmation testing recommended for not-negative results.

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DEVICE OPTIONS

Device with collection swab

Test Strips, Dip Cards, Cassettes, Test Cups

RESULT TIME

Typically 10 minutes, but can vary.

Typically 5 minutes, but can vary.

STORAGE

Room temperature with approximately 24-month shelf life from manufacturing date.

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PROS

- No special collection facilities needed.
- Quick onsite results.
- Easy to follow instructions.

- Quick onsite results.
- Fast specimen collection time.
- Easy to follow instructions.

CONS

- Some occasional limitations/issues with saliva supply of donors (ie: "dry mouth").
- Cross reaction may result in false positives.
- Minimal sample collection may result in not enough remaining for lab confirmation.

- Donors can experience "shy bladder".
- Cross reaction may result in false positives.
- Adulteration concerns.
- Observed, gender-specific collections may be required.

LAB TESTING

ORAL FLUID

URINE

TEST METHOD

Initial screening may be Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), or Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry/Mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS). With presumptive positive specimens being confirmed by secondary more sensitive test method such as GC/MS or LC/MS. (Varies by laboratory.)

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TURN AROUND TIME

Upon receipt at lab, most confirmed negative results are reported within 24 hours. Positives are typically an additional 48-72 hours. Times may vary by laboratory and specimen.

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PROS

Ease of collection.

Extensive drug testing menu.

CONS

- Low sample volume may result in being unable to confirm/re-confirm result.
- Shipping and handling requirements.
- Smaller drug menu.
- Can be more expensive than onsite testing.

- Adulteration concerns.
- Shipping and handling requirements.
- Can be more expensive than onsite testing.