

# CT StateWide Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium Newsletter

March 2018

## Changes to the MRO Verification Process

MROs are required to verify a confirmed positive test result for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, semi-synthetic opioids (i.e., hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxymorphone), and/or PCP unless the employee presents a legitimate medical explanation for the presence of the drug(s)/metabolite(s) in their system. MROs will continue to follow Title 49 Part 40.141 (How does the MRO obtain information for the verification decision?) when obtaining information for the verification process to determine if an employee has a legally valid prescription consistent with the Controlled Substance Act. MROs still have a responsibility to report,

despite the valid prescription, if the employee is medically unqualified or would pose a significant safety risk. With the addition of the semi-synthetic opioids, there could potentially be an increase in verified negative results reported with a safety concern.

Title 49 Part 40.135(e) (What does the MRO tell the employee at the beginning of the verification interview?) was amended to give the employee the opportunity to work with the MRO and their prescribing physician to change medication prior to the MRO reporting the employee poses a significant safety risk. With this change, employees have five days to have their prescribing

physician contact the MRO to discuss an alternative medication.

Title 49: Transportation - Part 40 Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Test Programs can be found by using the Search engine at: [www.fta.dot.gov/12533.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/12533.html)

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## DOT Drug Tests Are Still Five-Panel

The DOT testing at HHS-certified laboratories continues to be a 5-panel drug test regimen. As of January 1, 2018, the DOT testing panel is:

- ▮ Marijuana metabolites
  - ▮ Cocaine metabolites
  - ▮ Amphetamines
  - ▮ **Opioids\***
  - ▮ Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Four semi-synthetic opioids were added to the DOT testing panel (i.e.,

hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxymorphone). Some common names for these semi-synthetic opioids include OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®, Vicodin®, Lortab®, Norco®, Dilaudid®, Exalgo®.

\*To cover these substances, as well as those previously in the opiates category (i.e., codeine, morphine, 6-AM\*\*), the category was renamed from "opiates" to

In addition, under the amphetamines drug category, DOT has removed methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) as a confirmatory test analyte from the existing drug-testing panel, and added methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte.

\*\* 6-acetylmorphine, which is the active metabolite in heroin.

## FTA Substance Abuse Training

FTA's Substance Abuse One-Day Seminar is coming to Hartford on **April 11, 2018**.

Location: **GHTD Paratransit Operations & Maintenance Facility, 148 Roberts Street, East Hartford, CT 06108.**

This one-day seminar is designed to provide essential facts and information to facilitate employers' compliance with DOT's 49 CFR Part 40 and FTA's 49

CFR Part 655. While a high-level overview of the regulations will be discussed, this seminar will focus more on the operational side of a transit agency's functions. The training will be conducted by a member of FTA's Drug and Alcohol Program Audit team.

Spots are being held for DERs in the CT Statewide Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium; however space is limited.

Please RSVP to Lori DeCoste at [lori.decoste@dot.gov](mailto:lori.decoste@dot.gov) by **March 27, 2018**.

All DERs are encouraged to attend this training. It is an opportunity for the DERs to address any issues related to the change in Part 40 rule.



## Consortium Training

FTA Post-Accident & Reasonable Suspicion Training is scheduled on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at:

**Middletown Transit District**  
**91 N. Main Street**  
**Middletown, CT 06457**

**Post-Accident Training**  
**10:00 AM – NOON**  
**Reasonable Suspicion**  
**Training 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

The training will be provided by Occupational Drug Testing (ODT). ODT has developed the training materials that are

tailored to cover the required Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Transit Administration content. All items will be covered in a clear and concise manner.

The core objective of on-site training is to effectively teach each of the listed core topics while motivating the attendees to use the new skills to help promote an effective and DOT compliant drug and alcohol testing program.

For registration, contact Nhan Vo-Le at [nhvole@ghtd.org](mailto:nhvole@ghtd.org) by **April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

## Site Visits

The site visits are on-going. The Consortium Coordinator had met with several DERs at their locations over the past two months to review their drug and alcohol testing programs. She will schedule the visits with the remaining locations and complete the site visits by June.

## 2017 MIS Reports

All 2017 MIS reports have been submitted successfully to the FTA. Thanks to ODT and DERs for their time and effort in the 2017 MIS reporting process.

## Contact & Resource Info

Occupational Drug Testing, LLC

**[www.occupationaldrugtesting.com](http://www.occupationaldrugtesting.com)**

Toll Free # 800-211-4469

The Lexington Group

**[www.The-Lexington-Group.com](http://www.The-Lexington-Group.com)**

Toll Free # 800-571-0197

Employee Assistance Program

**1-800-676-HELP (4357)**

**Request clinical services online directly from the web site at:**

**[www.The-Lexington-Group.com](http://www.The-Lexington-Group.com)**

**To log on, your customer name is "CT Drug Consortium"**

**And your unique employee password is "CTDrugConsort"**

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**Are you aware of the availability of program forms and resource documents on**

**GHTD's website?**

Go to [www.hartfordtransit.org](http://www.hartfordtransit.org) Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium.

**Also, checkout the following materials:**

What Employers Need to Know About DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing – Rev. June 2015

What Employees Need to Know About DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing – Rev. April 2014

Resources For The Designated Employer Representative (DER)

Lexington Newsletters

FTA Regulation Update Issues

**The following FTA website provides a wealth of information such as trainings, newsletters, etc. on the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program that you might find very**

**helpful: [www.fta.dot.gov/12533.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/12533.html)**

You may also find Title 49 Parts 40 and 655 (FTA regulations on drug and alcohol) by using the Search engine.