

|              |                                                                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DATE:</b> | 7 July 2025                                                                             |
| <b>TO:</b>   | North Zone, Edmonton Zone and Central Zone                                              |
| <b>FROM:</b> | Clinical Biochemistry – North Sector                                                    |
| <b>RE:</b>   | <b>Urine Toxicology Panels – University of Alberta Hospital – Toxicology Laboratory</b> |

---

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

---

### Key Message

- Three (3) new analytes have been added to both the Urine General Toxicology Panel (UGTP) and the Urine Opioid Dependency Panel (UODP):
  - para-Fluorofentanyl (fentanyl analogue)
  - ortho-Methylfentanyl (fentanyl analogue)
  - $\alpha$ -Hydroxybromazolam (metabolite of bromazolam - a benzodiazepine analogue)
- In addition, the following two (2) analytes will be deleted from the panels:
  - Etizolam will be removed from both the UGTP and the UODP. Note that Etizolam metabolite,  $\alpha$ - Hydroxyetizolam, will remain in the panel.
  - para-Methoxyamphetamine will be removed from the UGTP. Note that the parent drug, para- methoxymethamphetamine, will remain in the panel.
- These drug testing panels will not be able to distinguish between positional isomers of the fentanyl analogues.
  - Although para-Fluorofentanyl will be reported as the name of the analyte detected, the method cannot distinguish between the para-, ortho- and meta-isomers of fluorofentanyl.
  - Although ortho-Methylfentanyl will be reported as the name of the analyte detected, the method cannot distinguish between the para-, ortho- and meta-isomers of methylfentanyl.

### Background

- These compounds are not available in Canada as prescription medications and are found in the current illicit drug supply. Analytes are added and removed to ensure the panels remain relevant.

### How this will impact you

- These analytes may be reported on samples submitted for qualitative toxicology testing.

### Action Required

- Be aware of the changes in analytes detected by these two (2) drug testing panels. Continue to request the UGTP or UODP on your patient as required.
- As a reminder the UGTP and the UODP have a high degree of drug overlap. The UODP is intended for patients in opioid agonist therapy programs and the UGTP is for general assessment (including pain management, psychiatry, etc.). **Order ONLY ONE of the two test panels.** For a complete list of drugs in each panel, along with current cut-off concentrations, visit <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab- toxicology-drug-testing-panels.pdf>

**Effective 15 JULY 2025**

**Questions/Concerns**

- Dr. Penny Colbourne, Clinical Toxicologist, 780-407-4729

**Approved by**

- Dr. Kareena Schnabl, Section Chief Biochemistry, North Sector
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector