



Date: January 25, 2021
To: North Zone, Edmonton Zone and Central Zone
From: Penny Colbourne, PhD, F-ABFT
Re: Urine Toxicology Panels – University of Alberta Toxicology Laboratory

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective immediately four (4) new analytes have been added to both the Urine General Toxicology Panel (UGTP) and the Urine Opioid Dependency Panel (UODP). The new analytes are classified as either benzodiazepines or benzodiazepine analogues:
 - Etizolam
 - Etizolam Metabolite (alphahydroxyetizolam)
 - Flubromazepam
 - Flubromazolam

Why this is important:

- These compounds are considered to be illicit. Although etizolam is clinically available in certain Asian and European countries it is not a prescription drug currently available in Canada. Based on preliminary studies etizolam/alphahydroxyetizolam are currently being detected in clinical samples. Both flubromazepam and flubromazolam are sometimes referred to as designer benzodiazepines. These two benzodiazepines are being added as a pilot project to determine prevalence but will be reported if detected.

Action Required:

- No action is required on your part. These drugs will be automatically included in the analysis when either the UGTP or UODP is requested. 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.). **Select ONLY ONE of the two test codes.** For a complete list of drugs in each panel, visit <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-toxicology-drug-testing-panels.pdf>

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Penny Colbourne, Clinical Toxicologist, University of Alberta - Toxicology Laboratory, 780-407-4729

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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