

Solano County District Attorney
Bureau of Forensic Services

EV-1.05



Revision 2.3

Approval: Lab Director

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***Physical Evidence Bulletin:
Urine Toxicology***

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INTRODUCTION

Blood is the preferred biological specimen for determining possible impairment. However, if there is a significant time period between the incident and the collection, a urine sample may be a better choice. Urine may also be appropriate for analysis of drugs that are not typically present in sufficient concentration in blood for analysis.

Drug levels in urine are not directly correlated to the levels in the bloodstream at the time of collection. Identification of a drug in urine indicates a history of use and is not a conclusive indication of impairment due to longer elimination times. In some cases, submissions of both a blood and a urine specimen may be appropriate.

Urine toxicology results will be reported qualitatively, not quantitatively. As with the handling of all biological specimens, certain precautions must be taken. Urine sample collection kits are provided by the laboratory.

1. SAMPLING, COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND PACKAGING

Please see EV-1.03 Physical Evidence Bulletin: Urine Alcohol for all information pertaining to sampling, collecting, preserving and packaging of urine specimens.

2. ANALYSIS

The Solano County Bureau of Forensic Services no longer analyzes urine specimens for drugs. All urine specimens requiring toxicology analysis will be sent to an external laboratory for analysis.

Please minimize the number of urine samples collected in place of a preferred blood sample, when appropriate. Due to the poor correlation of drugs in urine to concentrations in blood, urine is not recommended for driving-related cases. Urine is only recommended in drug-facilitated crimes, sexual assault cases, situations where blood collection is not possible, or other situations where a significant period of time has passed between the collection of the sample and the relevant event.

3. EVIDENCE DISPOSITION

Evidence will not be permanently retained by the laboratory. Specimens will routinely be returned to the submitting agency after being stored refrigerated in the laboratory for a minimum of 12 months after the date of receipt.

The laboratory generally does not collect or create evidence items for future testing without a specific request. If retention of evidence is required, this request should be made prior to the end of the 12-month period.

For further information on collection of urine for forensic alcohol analysis contact the laboratory directly:

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