



March 22, 2022

To: SHC & LPCH Medical Staff

From: Stanford Health Care Clinical Laboratories

Subject: Addition of Fentanyl to Urine Drug of Abuse Screen Tests at Stanford Medicine

Background:

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid analgesic that is routinely prescribed for management of pain. It is estimated to be between 80 and 100 times more potent than morphine. In addition to pain management, fentanyl may be diverted and used illicitly. Unfortunately, the current immunoassay methods designed to detect opioids in our clinical laboratory does not reliably detect synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Hence, a separate immunoassay test specifically designed for the detection of fentanyl must be used.

Effective April 7th, 2022, the clinical chemistry section of Stanford Medicine clinical laboratory will be adding fentanyl to the urine drug of abuse screen panel. The fentanyl test is an immunoassay intended for the qualitative determination of norfentanyl in human urine. The cutoff for the test is 5 ng/mL when calibrated against norfentanyl.

All presumptive positives or presumptive negatives that are generated by the drug screen that are inconsistent with the clinical presentation of the patient should be confirmed by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis.

The EPIC urine drug of abuse screen panel lab order remains the same: **LABDOA**.

Reference:

- 1. Vallejo R, Barkin RL, Wang VC. Pharmacology of opioids in the treatment of chronic pain syndromes. Pain Physician. 2011;14(4):E343–E360.
- 2. Fentanyl II Package Insert, V1.0 / 2021-12, Roche Diagnostics, 2021

If you have any questions about this new test, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

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