

Drugs of Abuse Patch

FOR CONTINUOUS MONITORING WITH SWEAT

The Patch

The PharmChek® Drugs of Abuse Patch acts as a collector for nonvolatile components of sweat, including drugs of abuse. It consists of an adhesive plastic film that holds an absorption pad in place against the skin.

The adhesive film of the patch is a semipermeable barrier that allows oxygen, carbon dioxide, and water vapor to pass through so that the skin can breathe normally. Larger molecules (such as drugs) are trapped in the absorption pad portion of the patch. Contaminants from the environment cannot penetrate the adhesive barrier from the outside, so the patch can be worn during normal activities, including bathing, swimming and athletics.



Usage

The PharmChek® Drugs of Abuse Patch is worn on the upper arm, (lower midriff and lower back are alternative sites). The skin where the patch will be worn is thoroughly and aggressively cleaned with alcohol wipes to remove dirt, oil and dead skin cells prior to application. The PharmChek® Drugs of Abuse Patch should be worn for a minimum of 24 hours to ensure that an adequate amount of sweat is collected.



After the patch is worn, the absorption pad is removed and sent with a completed chain-of-custody form to the lab to be tested for drugs of abuse. Clinical studies have shown that drugs and drug metabolites on the pad are stable for days at room temperature and months in a freezer. The PharmChek® Drugs of Abuse Patch is tamper-evident when applied correctly. A unique number is imprinted on each patch to aid with chain-of-custody identification. The PharmChek® Patch is also gender neutral and eliminates the need for same sex observations.

Analysis

Once the pad is received at the lab, any drugs present are washed from it into an extraction solvent and tested by assays similar to those used for testing urine samples.

Immunoassay (ELISA) technology is currently used for the screening test. A positive screening test is confirmed by LC/MS/MS (Tandem Liquid Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry).



Advantages

The PharmChek® Drugs of Abuse Patch provides distinct advantages over urine testing:

- ✓ **HYGIENIC: cf.**
Cocaine, Opiates, Amphetamines, PCP and Marijuana.
- ✓ **Continuous monitoring; 24 hours per day, 7 days per week**
The patch retains drugs used at any time during its wear period until the patch is removed, up to 7 days later.
- ✓ **Tamper-Evident**
The adhesive plastic film cannot be reapplied once removed, and a unique serial number prevents fraud and tampering.
- ✓ **Cannot be diluted**
The sweat patch specimen cannot be diluted as can a standard urine specimen.
- ✓ **Deterrent to additional drug use**
Because the patch is a visible sign of continuous drug monitoring, it can act as a powerful deterrent to additional drug use and may help reduce the effects of peer pressure.

Tampa Bay Monitoring

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