I. Title

Student Drug Testing

II. Policy

It is the policy of UTMB to provide a safe workplace for all employees, students, and patients. UTMB Schools require students to have a negative urine drug screen.

Substances tested for may include amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, methqualone, propoxyphene, and ethanol urine; and other substances may be required by a health care facility at which the student is assigned for a clinical rotation. Drug screen results will not be accepted from non-UTMB approved collection and testing sites.

III. Background

Patient safety priorities have led many facilities to require urine drug testing of health care providers and others who may interact with the patients or personnel. In addition to UTMB’s belief that this is an appropriate patient safety decision, drug testing is now a prerequisite for an increasing number of facilities to accept student assignments. UTMB already requires drug testing of all prospective employees and incoming students.

IV. Procedure

This policy represents UTMB’s attempt to balance the needs of students while protecting the interests of patients. Each school will establish procedures specific to its requirements. These are located as follows:

- School of Health Professions Student Drug Testing Policy
- School of Medicine Student Drug Testing Policy
- School of Nursing Student Drug Testing Policy

V. Establishing a Positive Drug Test and its Consequences

A student’s drug screen is not considered positive until a medical review officer (MRO) has determined that the results are not due to legally prescribed and appropriately taken prescription medications and the student has been offered the opportunity to have their original sample retested at the student’s expense.

The decision of the MRO regarding test results and reporting is final and not subject to appeal.

Drug test results will remain separate from the academic record.

Non-matriculated Students:

A non-matriculated student with a positive drug test will be reported to the relevant Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) and may have his or her offer of admission rescinded.
Matriculated Students:
A positive test will result in a report to the relevant ADSA for intervention and/or possible disciplinary action as authorized by the University of Texas System Regent’s Rules and Regulations. Additionally, the relevant ADSA may send the results to the Student Conduct and Discipline Officer to be processed under IHOP – 07.01.03 – Student Conduct and Discipline.

A student may resume coursework (clinical or non-clinical) once the student satisfactorily fulfills any requirements set forth by the ADSA, if offered; and, if authorized by the ADSA, the student submits a subsequent test sample for which a negative (“clear”) test report is received.

VI. Relevant System Policies and Procedures
Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Student Conduct and Discipline

VII. Related UTMB Policies and Procedures
IHOP – 07.01.03 – Student Conduct and Discipline
School of Health Professions Student Drug Testing Policy
School of Medicine Drug Testing Policy
School of Nursing Drug Testing Policy

VIII. Dates Approved or Amended

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IX. Contact Information
The Office of Student Affairs and Admissions:
   Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – (409) 266-6504
   School of Health Professions – (409) 772-3004
   School of Medicine – (409) 772-6026
   School of Nursing – (409) 772-8205