

<b>Section 7 Student Policies</b> <b>Subject 7.1 Student Policies</b>	<b>09/02/10 -Originated</b> <b>11/08/2013 Reviewed with Changes</b> <b>- Reviewed w/o Changes</b> <b>12/04/2013 -Effective</b> <b>SOM Educational Affairs - Author</b>
<b>Supporting Document: School of Medicine (SOM) Student Drug Testing</b>	

## School of Medicine Student Drug Testing Policy

### Policy

It is the policy of UTMB to provide a safe workplace for all employees, students, and patients. The UTMB School of Medicine requires that all Year 3 and Year 4 students have a negative urine drug screen prior to enrolling in any course or clerkship.

The substances tested for will be amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, and phencyclidine (PCP).

Students may not begin or continue coursework (clinical or non-clinical) until a negative (“clear”) test report is received.

A student’s test is not considered positive until a Medical Review Officer determines that the results are not due to legally prescribed prescription medications and the student has been offered the opportunity to have the original sample retested at the student’s expense.

A positive test will result in a report to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) for intervention and/or possible disciplinary action as authorized by the University of Texas System Regent’s Rules and Regulations.

Drug test results will remain separate from the academic record.

### Procedures

Patient safety priorities have led many clinical facilities to require urine drug testing of health care providers. In addition to the School of Medicine’s (SOM) 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 prospective employees, including resident trainees. This policy represents the SOM’s attempt to balance the needs of students while protecting the interests of patients. It outlines procedures and confidentiality safeguards that are part of the program. The SOM Curriculum Committee, SOM Course and Clerkship Directors, SOM Student Affairs, Human Resources, Employee Health and Wellness, Student Wellness, Legal Affairs, and Student Government participated in the development of these policies and procedures.

All students will be tested before beginning year 3. A negative (“clear”) test is required for continuation in the curriculum. The program may be expanded to additional student groups in the future, and retesting may be required if a facility requires a more recent test result than is provided for in the SOM policy.

If a student is not given an appointment for drug testing, he/she should contact the Office of Clinical Education (OCE) (409-747-0269) to request an appointment.

### Procedures, continued

If a student does not keep a collection appointment or declines to participate, he/she will not be allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum. This will result in a report to the ADSA.

The test detects amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, and PCP. There will be an opportunity for students to disclose use of prescription medications.

### **Collection process**

Students will be scheduled for an appointment by the Office of Clinical Education (OCE) and will be notified by e-mail to pick up their authorization and testing forms from OCE and sign a testing consent form. A collection site in Galveston will be available, and additional collection sites may be authorized in the future. Students cannot choose their own testing date/time or testing facility.

Students must take their authorization and testing forms and student picture ID to the collection site at the appointed day and time. Prior to collection, students have the opportunity, but are not required, to disclose the use of prescription medications they believe may result in a positive test.

Students will provide a urine sample inside the collection facility at the direction of center staff with a container provided to them. The collection is unobserved, but to be valid it must meet specimen specifications for color, temperature, and concentration. A student has a three-hour window to produce a valid specimen.

If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen within the specified time-frame (such as from shy bladder, excessively dilute, off-temperature, or contaminated sample), the student will not be allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum. One additional retesting will be allowed, under direct observation.

If a student is unable to produce a valid specimen on a second attempt, this will result in a “Positive/Not Clear” report. Such students are not allowed to begin or continue in the curriculum and will be subject to the same consequences as any “Positive/Not Clear” result.

### **Testing process**

Samples will be collected and properly labeled at the collection site.

Specimens will be shipped to a testing facility not affiliated with UTMB. Standard cut-offs used by the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used to define positive results.

### **Procedures, continued**

A “Negative/Clear” result is reported if the sample is negative for the screened substances, or is positive for one or more screened substances but a Medical Review Officer (MRO) not affiliated with UTMB contacts the student and determines that a legitimately prescribed medication explains the presence and level of a drug detected.

A “Positive/Not Clear” result is reported if the sample is positive for one or more screened substances, and a Medical Review Officer (MRO) not affiliated with UTMB contacts the student and determines that a valid explanation of the result does not exist. Before making this report, the MRO will offer the student the opportunity to have the original sample retested by an independent laboratory at the student’s expense. Students will not be allowed to provide a new sample for testing.

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

### **Reporting and tracking procedures**

The Office of Clinical Education (OCE) will receive testing reports from the laboratory and MRO on a regular basis and will maintain the records as part of a secure database available only to the program administrators.

Negative results will be sent directly to OCE from the laboratory.

Positive results will be sent from the laboratory to MRO, who will send the report to OCE once a final decision is made. Positive reports will include the name of drug but will not have quantitative results.

### **Consequences of a positive test**

Students may not begin or continue coursework (clinical or non-clinical) after a positive test result is received.

A positive result will result in a report to the ADSA for intervention and/or possible disciplinary action as authorized by the University of Texas System Regent's Rules and Regulations.

A student may resume coursework (clinical or non-clinical) only if 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.