



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2748 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCHO-CL-H

27 October 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, Drug Testing and Program Policy - Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Operational Readiness and Safety, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Suite 1E532, Washington, DC 20301-4000

SUBJECT: Request to Initiate Pharmacy Database Pilot Study

1. Action: Approval to allow the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory (FTDTL) to conduct live testing of service member urinalysis specimens utilizing the Electronic Prescription Review System (ePRS).
2. Background: The DoD Drug Testing Laboratories have been utilizing the ePRS in evaluation mode since April 2011 while running in the background without affecting service member testing or reporting. The system allows for an electronic query of the Pharmacy Data Transaction Service database to determine if a valid prescription exists for a service member which would cause a positive urinalysis result. Results thru 15 October 2011 indicate a 'washout' rate (positive specimen with a legitimate prescription) of approximately 52%.
3. Pilot Testing Overview: If approved, ePRS will be used only on specimens with an initial screen positive Oxycodone result and/or d-amphetamine only confirmation positive specimens. The general testing protocol will be as follows:
 - a. When a specimen has an initial screen positive test for Medical Review Officer reviewable drugs, ePRS will determine if a valid prescription exists within 90 days of the specimen collection date that would cause a positive result and store this in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).
 - b. Oxycodone: A specimen screens positive for Oxycodone on the initial screening test. The positive result will trigger LIMS to cease additional testing if ePRS determines there is a valid prescription. The specimen will be reported as negative for Oxycodone.
 - c. d-Amphetamine: A specimen CONFIRMS positive for d-Amphetamine only (d-methamphetamine negative) on the confirmation test. The laboratory confirmation positive result will trigger LIMS to cease testing if ePRS determines there is a valid prescription. The specimen will be reported as negative d-Amphetamine.
 - d. The LIMS will generate a daily report listing all specimens that were reported as negative as a result of the ePRS process.

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4. The TAMC FTDTL will provide weekly status updates to the Biochemical Testing Advisory Board (BTAB). At any time, if critical issues are encountered, ePRS will be turned off immediately and BTAB notified.

5. Point of contact is the undersigned at (210) 221-7256 or email at:
thomas.martin17@us.army.mil.

THOMAS M. MARTIN
LTC, MS
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I approve:

KEVIN KLETTE
CPT, MSC, USN
Director, Drug Testing Program and
Policy Office