



## Urine Methadone Testing

Methadone is an opioid medication. An opioid is sometimes called a narcotic. Methadone reduces withdrawal symptoms in people addicted to opioid drugs without causing the "high" associated with the drug addiction.

Methadone is used as a pain reliever and as part of drug addiction detoxification and maintenance programs.

Pathlab intend to change the method (assay) used for measuring Methadone on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2015.

The new method is fully automated on our Beckman Coulter AU680 analyser and was previously referred to Health Waikato Laboratories (HWL).

The specimen required is a 20mL random urine.

Urine methadone must be stated on the request form as it is not part of a routine drug screen.

Results will only be reported as POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.

The test cannot be used for medico-legal purposes as it is only a screening test.

## Urine Drugs of Abuse Testing (Pathlab Whakatane Only)

Pathlab Whakatane have changed the method (assay) used for measuring Drugs of abuse in our Whakatane Laboratory. This is effective from today.

The new method is fully automated on our Beckman Coulter AU680 analyser, and will be referred to Pathlab BOP at Tauranga hospital.

The urine drug screen will include a Urine Creatinine, Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Opiates and Cannabinoids. Test results will be available within 24 hours. Whakatane Emergency Department will continue to use the current manual test kits where required.

The specimen required is a 20mL random urine.

Results will only be reported as POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.

The test cannot be used for medico-legal purposes as it is only a screening test.

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CLINICAL UPDATE