



Department of Medicine Care Clinic

Title: Diluted Drug Screens

Responsibility: Treatment Providers of Multidisciplinary Team.

Purpose of Guidelines: To establish a process for addressing inconclusive or diluted drug screen results while in treatment programming.

Procedure:

1. Patients who report medical reasons causing diluted samples, will need to provide documentation from their doctor that specifically states this. The clinician will work with the prescriber to understand the condition and if there is anything that can be done by the client or by staff to avoid or decrease the frequency of diluted samples.
2. The following steps should be taken when a dilute result is received:
 - Assess the best time of day to obtain the most concentrated urine (first awakening and before fluids are consumed). Consideration for patient's schedule of sleep will be used to determine the time for the client to be contacted to come in and provide sample. Patients will be called in to provide samples at these times. It will be expected that clients arrive within an amount of time as specified by staff member calling. (Ex. Within 1 hour or ½ hour, considering the travel time required of client). When appropriate, staff will provide transportation to ensure the program adheres to low threshold services principle.
 - Increase in frequency of testing. Patients will be asked to provide a urine sample for a consecutive number of days deemed clinically appropriate by the clinical team. Patients may also be asked to provide a second sample within the same treatment contact (example would be before and after group).
 - Breathalyzer testing will be utilized in addition to urinalysis for those with alcohol use disorder diagnoses or as clinically indicated.
 - Based on the client's substance of choice and testing ranges, the corresponding treatment team will identify the number of unexpected, resulted drug screens necessary to move to the next level of care.
 - Modification to the treatment plan may be considered.
 - Patients will need to obtain expected drug screen results on every test for *at least one month prior* to being considered for successful discharge from addiction services.

Resources: SAMHSA, National TASC- Best Practices in Drug Testing.

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