

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES OUTPATIENT RECOVERY SERVICES

Guideline: Diluted Drug Screens



Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: Outpatient Recovery Services staff and providers.

Effective Date:
November 2025

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

Initial Effective Date:
November 2019

Procedure:

- (A) Patients who report medical reasons for diluted samples will need to provide documentation from their doctor for the diluted screens. The provider will work with the doctor to understand the condition, and if there is anything that can be done by the patient or by staff to avoid or decrease frequency of diluted samples.
- (B) The following steps may be taken when a diluted result is received:
 - (1) Increase in frequency of testing. Patients may be asked to provide a urine sample for a consecutive number of days deemed clinically appropriate by clinical team. Patients may also be asked to provide a second sample within the same treatment contact.
 - (2) Breathalyzer testing may be utilized in addition to urinalysis for those with alcohol use disorder diagnoses or suspicion of alcohol usage.
 - (3) Based on the patient's substance of choice and testing ranges, the treatment team may identify the number of negative drug screens necessary to move to the next level of care.
 - (4) Modification to the treatment plan may be considered.
- (C) Resources: SAMHSA, National TASC- Best Practices in Drug Testing.

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Approved by:

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Initial effective date:

November 2019

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Review/Revision Date:

December 2022

November 2025

Next review date:

November 2028