

## MARIJUANA

THC is the most psychoactive constituent of marijuana. This plant is commonly abused by smoking and occasionally by oral ingestion. THC is metabolized extensively, the primary metabolite being the THC-COOH. Presence of the metabolite(s) in the urine indicates prior exposure to the drug.

## OXYCODONE

For therapeutic drug monitoring of oxycodone (Oxycontin<sup>®</sup>, Percocet<sup>®</sup>, Percodan<sup>®</sup>).

Oxycodone is a semisynthetic opioid analgesic. Steady state concentration is reached in 24-36 hours after initiation of therapy. Elimination half-life of oxycodone is 4.5 hours for controlled release and 3.2 hours for immediate release formulations. Peak plasma concentration of oxycodone is 11, 21, 29, 39, 99, or 156 ng/mL after a single oral dose of 10, 20, 40, 80, or 160 mg, respectively. Oxymorphone is a minor but active metabolite of Oxycodone that is present at lower concentration in the circulation. Therapeutic concentrations for oxymorphone have not been established.

### New, FDA-cleared screening test

Many opiates, such as Oxycodone and Hydrocodone, have seen a dramatic increase in abuse over the last several years. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) showed that lifetime use of Oxycodone increased 47%, and that of Hydrocodone 27%.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Drug Abuse Warning Network showed that Oxycodone single use (not in combination with other drugs) increased a staggering 295%.<sup>2</sup>

These prescribed drugs are obtained on the street from numerous sources or from individuals who visit many different doctors with fake symptoms to obtain multiple prescriptions for the drugs.

#### Trade names for commonly abused opiates:

Hydrocodone	Vicodin <sup>®</sup> , Lorcet <sup>®</sup> , Lortab <sup>®</sup> , Hycodan <sup>®</sup>
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid <sup>®</sup>
Oxycodone	Endocet <sup>®</sup> , Endodan <sup>®</sup> , Percoset <sup>®</sup> , Percodan <sup>®</sup> , OxyContin <sup>®</sup> , OxyFast <sup>®</sup> , OxyIR <sup>®</sup> , Roxicet <sup>®</sup> , Tylox <sup>®</sup>
Oxymorphone	Numorphan <sup>®</sup>

In the past, opiate drug screening panels only detected opiates such as codeine and morphine. Since the other opiates share structural similarities with morphine, the opiate screening reagents detect additional opiates to varying extents. In the case of Oxycodone, most general opiate screens only detect Oxycodone if it is present at a high concentration.

However, Employer Solutions' new FDA-cleared screening technology has a specific reagent that can detect Oxycodone as low as 100 ng/mL.

In a pilot study by Quest Diagnostics using 20,000 specimens, the positivity rates for Oxycodone alone increased from 0.19% to 0.53% - an increase of over 150% using the new, expanded panel.

### The expanded opiate panel includes testing for the following:

>Codeine	> Hydromorphone	> Morphine
>Oxycodone	> Hydrocodone	> Oxymorphone

#### "Street" Names for Oxycodone

40, 80 (referring to dosage size)  
Blue  
Hillbilly Heroin  
Kicker

Killers  
Ocs  
Oxycotton  
Poor Man's Heroin

SAP 10-50/300 plus Opiates	30496N	***
SAP 5-50/300 plus Opiates with Testsure	19864N	***
SAP 9-50/2000 W/NIT with Testsure	35186N	***
SAP 9-50/300 EX OP/N with Testsure	19023N	***
SAP 5-50, Opiates (2), Plus 6-Acetylmorphine, Oxycodones, Ethyl, with Testsure	26588N	***
SAP 5-50 plus MDMA, Oxycodones, with Testsure	26578N	