

5 Facts That You Should Know About Drug Testing

Drug testing has become increasingly popular over the last decade. Most employers now test their employees for illegal drugs and alcohol as a measure to improve safety within the working premises. Also, on-site drug testing kits are used in many healthcare settings to monitor abstinence or to offer prescriptions and increasingly, parents or partners are home drug testing their children or family members to encourage a strict no attitude in the use of drugs at home!

Drug testing refers to the examination of a urine, blood or another type of biological sample to determine if the subject has been using the drugs or a particular drug in question. Drug testing may be carried out under a few particular circumstances:

1. Pre -employment or random, work related drug testing to identify on the job drug abuse.
2. Drug testing for college or professional athletes.
3. Drug testing post accidents - a vehicular or on the job accident which may have involved human error and resulted in casualties and property damage.
4. Related to safety - if an employee's job can lead to safety issues if judgement or physical ability were impaired.

So here are 5 [drug testing facts](#) you probably didn't know about!

1. A negative drug test result does not necessarily mean your employee can do safety sensitivity work. Employers should encourage employees to immediately stop safety sensitive work if any side effects from medication is experienced.
2. Medical marijuana is currently under strict examination as a stand-alone medication with regards to the impact it will have on drug test results. Safety sensitive issues must always be taken into notice even where medical marijuana is an acceptable explanation under the employee policy.
3. Substance abuse professional services and employee assistance programs are not the same thing. EAP provides workers with counselling to help them cope up with stress or

personal problems that could be linked to substance use, misuse or abuse and that is completely different from the role a substance abuse professional!

4. Commercial vehicle drivers cannot cross the border into the USA until the negative test results of their pre-employment and return to duty drug or liquor tests have been reported to the concerned employer or organisation!

5. Out of five drug families tested for the standard 5 panel, 4 of them have the potential to be used for valid medical reasons!

The above-mentioned facts would definitely give you a brief insight into drug testing and will give you a knowledge about commonly associated notions regarding drug testing!