



## 2018 DOT Changes

The Department of Transportation recently announced changes to the drug testing regulations. These changes are effective as of January 1, 2018 and are applicable to all DOT testing authorities.

People that are performing jobs that are deemed to be safety sensitive will be tested for four semi-synthetic opioids (i.e., hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone). Some common names for these semi-synthetic opioids include OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®, Vicodin®, Lortab®, Norco®, Dilaudid®, Exalgo®. Inclusion of these four semi-synthetic opioids is intended to help address the nationwide epidemic of opioid abuse

The new DOT panel is as follows:

- 1) Marijuana
- 2) Cocaine
- 3) Phencyclidine (PCP)
- 4) Amphetamines (includes Methamphetamines, MDMA, MDA)
- 5) Opioids
  - a. Codeine/Morphine
  - b. 6-AM (heroin)
  - c. Hydrocodone/Hydromorphone
  - d. Oxycodone/Oxymorphone

The new panel removes *methylenedioxyethylamphetamine* (MDEA).

In addition, the employee now has 5 days to provide a prescriptions to the Medical Review Officer. A valid prescription will in most case result in a negative drug test result.

**HOWEVER**, if the Medical Review Officer (MRO) notices an unnatural amount of the drug, the MRO will likely want to ask more questions and it could result in a positive drug test.

**With the rise in opioid addiction, it is imperative to follow medication instructions from prescribing doctor.**