

Why test for EDDP as opposed to Methadone?

- Only detects methadone metabolite EDDP
- Reduces false negative results from low doses
- Reduces false negative results from 'fast metabolisers' of methadone
- Eliminates false positive results from illicit addition of methadone to urine sample

EDDP solving common problems experienced with 'methadone only' testing

What is EDDP?

2-ethylidene-1, 5-dimethyl-3, 3-diphenylpyrrolidine (EDDP) is a primary metabolite of methadone.

Detectable in Urine: 1hr to 4 days - excretion of the metabolite EDDP found in urine via the kidneys

Methadone is an unusual drug in that its primary urinary metabolite (EDDP) is cyclic in structure which makes it very difficult to detect using an immunoassay targeted to the native compound Methadone. Compounding this problem, there is a subsection of the population who are classified as "extensive metabolizers" of methadone. In these individuals, although they are compliant with their methadone maintenance, their urine specimen does not contain enough parent methadone to yield a positive drug screen. As a result, these individuals are often denied further doses of methadone because they are incorrectly believed to be diverting their medication; here an EDDP screen would correctly confirm compliance. In addition, many individuals who choose to divert or sell their methadone on the street are aware that adding a small amount of the drug to the urine specimen will produce a positive result on a parent methadone-based drug screen. This is a common tactic to circumventing accurate drug screening.

Application and validation of a urinary methadone metabolite (EDDP) immunoassay to monitor methadone compliance

Recent detailed studies [Ref: S George, S Parmar, C Meadway and R A Braithwaite] showed that a considerably higher concentration of EDDP was found present in urine samples tested than compared to methadone. Numerous specimens showed negative for EDDP but upon GC-MS laboratory testing were found to have high concentrations of Methadone. These were therefore presumed to be 'spiked' with methadone, i.e. to have had methadone added to the specimen to yield positive screening results and simulate compliance. Various studies conclude that an EDDP assay is a sensitive and reliable technique to determine the compliance of subjects prescribed methadone for opiate detoxification and maintenance.

Since EDDP represents a better urine marker for methadone maintenance than unchanged methadone the **MEDACX** range of urine tests now offer detection of the EDDP metabolite as opposed to methadone (normally only available via laboratory test) within our range of on-site rapid urine DIP & CUP tests. EDDP cut-off are 300 ng/mL. UK laboratories and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) screen routinely for EDDP at these levels.

For details on **MEDACX urine tests with EDDP** please contact us on: **02392 469737**

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