

Practice Alert



Date: February 23, 2024

PA 24-CM-02

Issued by: Prevention Unit

PA 24-IA-02

Requesting testing of specific drugs for drug tests from drug testing providers

As a reminder, Children's Division must ensure that drug testing providers are testing specific drugs the team wants tested no matter the funding source.

Under Section 8, Chapter 7 (Contracted Services), Subsection 4-Children's Treatment Services Catalog Drug Testing Reporting Requirements:

Drug Testing:

The contractor shall administer the type of drug testing panel or hair follicle testing as specified by the Department. If necessary and requested by the Department, the contractor shall assist the Department in deciding the most appropriate type of drug testing depending on the client-specific situation.

Many drug testing companies have a referral form and a process. It is imperative to communicate on the provider form, the Children's Division drug testing form in the Children's Treatment Services (CTS) Catalog Appendix –Drug Testing Form, or by other means, the specific drugs that need to be tested. It is also crucial when obtaining and reviewing the results of a drug test to ensure the provider tested for all the drugs you requested.

There are certain drugs, such as fentanyl, that are not always on a drug testing panel even when that drug panel tests for opiates. For example, a standard drug screen likely includes testing for opiates. Even though fentanyl is a synthetic opiate, it will not be detected in a standard screening for opiates and must be specifically identified as part of the test. It is very important not to assume that drugs like fentanyl are being tested and ensure that they are being requested to be tested and that they are actually being included in drug testing results.

If there are questions about the process to ensure that the provider will be testing for the specific drugs identified by the worker, the team or the court, the worker should contact the drug testing provider at the number provided on the referral form or should contact Melissa Lett, Program Specialist at (816) 407-5858.

Melissa Lett
Prevention Unit Program Specialist
Melissa.L.Lett@dss.mo.gov

