

December 2017

To Our Valued Clients,

First and foremost; Thank You, for your continued loyalty and support to DSI Medical. We wish you and your families a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

As you may know, the New Year, (January 1) will bring significant change to the federal drug test panel. Expanded opioids will be added, mandating the testing of Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Hydrocodone, and Hydromorphone. Commonly referred to as prescription pain killers, these synthetic, or semi synthetic narcotic analgesic drugs have significant abuse potential. The lab will automatically test for the expanded opioid metabolites effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Specimens received under the current test panel code and present chain of custody forms will auto reflex to the new test panel code. You do not need to order new chain of custody forms. If you have a NON-DOT look alike test panel the same change will occur for your NON-DOT account with no action on your part necessary. If you **do not want your NON-DOT** look alike test panel changed you must contact us before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The move to test for these drugs by DOT will improve safety in the workplace, and overall those traveling the public highways will be safer. There will be added cost for this testing, as these additional drugs will require specific reagents to identify these metabolites. Any additional fee, we believe will be nominal, and will not occur immediately, as the HHS / SAMHSA laboratories testing these additional metabolites will evaluate their costs during Q1 2018. We anticipate we may see an increase in the \$ 1.50 per specimen range based on the positivity rate we see today with those clients already testing for these metabolites. We certainly will inform you of any fee adjustments as we are notified by either Quest Diagnostics or Alere Toxicology.

The impact of these prescription medications will likely increase the frequency you may receive "Safety Sensitive Notifications" from the medical review officer. If employees have valid prescriptions for medications that trigger a positive, the MRO will reverse and report valid prescriptions as negative. However, if the medication raises a safety concern you will be informed. Prudent action on your part will be securing documentation from the prescribing physician. You will want to confirm the medical practitioner's knowledge of the employee's essential job functions, and that there is no risk associated with the performance of the functions while taking this medication.

Should you have any questions or concerns please call us at 800-770-0531.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Staff of DSI Medical