

DAC Bulletin #6
HHS Revision to the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Testing Programs
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The Health and Human Service (HHS) has made revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs. One of the revisions includes the ability to screen for synthetic opioids in urine testing to include Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Oxycodone, and Oxymorphone. As a result, the DOT Order 3910.1D will be updated to include the testing of these drugs.

HHS has made this mandatory for all Federal agencies as of October 1, 2017. However, DOT will not begin testing for the expanded drug panel before 2018. The Agency expects to begin notifying each employee in a Testing Designated Position (TDP) on or about November 1, 2017 of this change. The notice will be a mandatory training item in eLMs that must be completed prior to 2018. This is not actually a training course but a notice that informs TDP employees of the addition of the four new drugs to the panel of drugs for which the Agency tests. Prior to this being activated in eLMS, the Agency will provide to NATCA a copy of the information that will be provided to the employees.

Employees should remain aware that if they should test positive for drugs, and do not have a valid medical prescription for use or did not use during the time period for which it was legitimately prescribed, the drug test will be verified positive by the Medical Review Officer.

NATCA's DAC working closely with the Agency on this matter and will provide updates as they become available.