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Remote Observed Oral Fluid Testing

What this test is, and what it can and cannot show

Provided by TrueTest Labs to all parties. TrueTest coordinates collections and chain of custody; it does not perform laboratory analysis and does not advise any party on whether this option is appropriate for their matter. That decision belongs to the parties, their counsel, and the court.

What this test is

An oral fluid screening test that gives a result during the session, performed by the donor at a remote location while a TrueTest collector observes the process on live video.

It is a **screening test**. It is not a laboratory test, and it is not a confirmed result.

How the collection works

- 1 The collector observes the full sequence on live video.
- 2 The donor presents photo identification to the camera. The collector captures a screenshot of **the identification and the donor together**. That screenshot is provided to **all parties, automatically, with every collection** — not on request.
- 3 The donor should refrain from eating, chewing gum, or drinking anything other than water for fifteen minutes before the collection. Drinking some water is recommended.
- 4 The collection swab is placed in the donor's mouth and remains within the camera frame throughout.
- 5 The swab is removed and placed into the test device, which expresses the specimen into it as it closes.
- 6 After a few minutes the result is ready to be read, and the donor holds the device up to the camera. **The collector reads the device**. The donor does not read or report the reading.
- 7 The collector captures a screenshot of the device at the time of the reading.
- 8 If the device cannot be clearly read, it is discarded, a new device is used, and the collection begins again. No reading is recorded from an unclear device.

Nothing is shipped, and no laboratory receives this specimen.

What this test can show

- **The collection is observed by the collector on live video. The swab remains in frame throughout, and the collector — not the donor — reads the device.**
- **Who provided the specimen, shown to everyone.** Photo identification is presented to the camera and a screenshot of the identification together with the donor is provided to **both parties** with every collection. Each party can form their own view of who provided the specimen rather than relying on the collector's account of it. **This has no in-person equivalent** — in a site collection, only the collector ever sees the identification.
- A screening reading for the substances the device is designed to detect.

What this test cannot show

Stated plainly, because a party agreeing to this option should know what they are giving up relative to a standard laboratory collection.

- **It is a screen, not a confirmation.** Screening tests can react to substances other than the one indicated. Laboratory confirmation testing exists to resolve what a screen cannot, and no confirmation testing occurs in this pathway.
- **It produces no number.** A reading is present or absent. There is no quantitative value, so nothing can be compared across collections and there is no figure for a retained expert to work from.
- **No specimen is retained.** Nothing is preserved, so the result cannot be re-analyzed, split, or independently re-examined by anyone. A laboratory result can be challenged on the specimen; this result can only be disputed.
- **The observation is by camera.** A camera shows what is within its frame. The collector directs the collection, but does not have the same control over the surroundings that an in-person collection provides.
- **The collector sees the identification on camera and does not physically examine it.** The screenshot goes to both parties, so nobody is relying on the collector's word about what was shown — but the document itself is not handled.
- **It detects a different window than urine testing.** Oral fluid and urine do not cover the same period of time. A negative on this test is not equivalent to a negative on a urine test.

What happens with the result

Negative reading — the testing event is complete. No further testing follows from that event.

Non-negative reading — the reading is **not a positive result** and is not reported as one. It means a confirmation collection follows: a standard urine collection at a collection site, under full chain of custody, sent to a laboratory, and handled as any standard collection in the matter would be.

Only the laboratory-confirmed result is a result. The screening reading decides nothing on its own.

When the confirmation collection happens:

- **The confirmation collection is scheduled for the same day where a site is available.** Where it is not, it is scheduled for the earliest available appointment.
- **We suggest scheduling the video test in the morning,** so that a urine collection can be arranged the same day if one is needed.

Oral fluid and urine detect different time periods, and delay between the two can produce a laboratory result that reflects a different window than the one screened. That is why the confirmation is arranged as quickly as a site can be found — and why a morning video test helps, since it leaves the most time to locate a collection site with an appointment available that day.

What the parties are agreeing to

By agreeing to this testing option, the parties are agreeing that:

- Some testing events will use a screening instrument rather than a laboratory collection, with the limitations described above.
- A negative screening reading closes that testing event.
- A non-negative screening reading is not a positive result and produces a standard laboratory collection.
- The screening reading is made by the collector and documented by screenshot.

This option exists to reduce cost and burden while continuing testing. It is a reduction in what testing can show, and it is offered on the understanding that the parties have decided that trade-off is appropriate for their matter.

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TrueTest Labs coordinates specimen collection and chain of custody. Laboratory analysis is performed by accredited partner laboratories. Nothing in this document is legal advice or a recommendation as to any party.