

# EVALUATION OF ADHERENCE TO PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS



EVALUATION OF ADHERENCE TO PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS		
Results	Possible Interpretations	Considerations
<b>Expected Drug(s) Identified</b>	The patient adhered to the prescribed medication plan.	Dose compliance cannot be determined reliably with urine.
	The patient has adulterated his or her urine (eg, added drug directly to the urine).	A high concentration of parent drug coupled with the absence of common metabolite(s) may suggest adulteration of the urine specimen. Retest with a new specimen.
<b>Unexpected Drug(s) Identified</b>	The unexpected drug is a metabolite of an expected drug.	Consult metabolic pathway diagram; ratios of parent opioids and possible metabolite(s) may suggest whether the patient used one drug or more than one drug.
	The unexpected drug is an impurity of an expected drug product.	Pharmaceutical impurities are usually observed at concentrations < 5% of the primary drug concentration. If concentration is > 5%, retest with a new specimen.
	An unexpected drug was dispensed to the patient.	Verify prescription records.
	The patient used non-prescribed or otherwise undisclosed drug(s).	Discuss with patient to verify.
<b>Expected Drug(s) NOT Identified</b>	The patient did NOT adhere to the prescribed medication plan.	Discuss with patient to verify.
	The patient adhered to the medication plan but has unusual pharmacokinetics or a clinical condition that compromises drug absorption.	Test with timed blood specimens to evaluate individual patient absorption/clearance factors (eg, metabolic conditions or drug interactions).
	The patient eliminated the drug prior to specimen collection.	Consult drug pharmacokinetics and discuss with patient to verify time of last dose relative to specimen collection.
	The patient's urine was dilute, such that the concentration of expected drug analytes fell below assay detection limits.	Consider repeat testing with a new specimen and/or verify urine dilution with creatinine or specific gravity testing.
	The test performed does not detect the drug(s) of interest.	Compare the list of drugs detected by the assay with the list of drugs expected.

