

DRUG PLASMA HALF-LIFE AND URINE DETECTION WINDOW | OCTOBER 2023

DRUG, DRUG METABOLITE(S)*	COMMON TRADE AND STREET NAMES, NOTES	PLASMA HALF-LIFE [†]	URINE-DETECTION WINDOW [†]
STIMULANTS			
Amphetamine	Benzedrine, Dexedrine, Adderall, Vyvanse, Dextroamp, Adzenys, speed; methamphetamine metabolite (typically <30% of parent)	7–34 hrs	1–5 days
Cocaine	Coke, crack; parent drug rarely observed due to short half-life	0.7–1.5 hrs	<1 day
Benzoylcegonine	Cocaine metabolite	5.5–7.5 hrs	1–2 days
Methamphetamine	Desoxyn, Methedrine, Vicks inhaler (D- and L-isomers not resolved; low concentrations expected if the source is Vicks); selegiline (Atapryl, Carbex, Eldepryl, Emsam, Zelapar) metabolite; metabolized to amphetamine	6–17 hrs	1–5 days
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	MDA	11–17 hrs	1–3 days
Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA)	MDEA, MDE, Eve	6–11 hrs	1–3 days
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	MDMA, XTC, Ecstasy, Molly	6–10 hrs	1–3 days
Methylphenidate	Ritalin, Concerta, Focalin, Metadate, Methylin, Adhansia, Aptensio, Azstarys, Cotempla, Daytrana, Jornay, QuilliChew, Quillivant	1.4–4.2 hrs	<1 day
Ritalinic acid	Methylphenidate metabolite	1.8–2.5 hrs	<1 day
Phentermine	Adipex-P, Lomaira, Qsymia	19–24 hrs	1–5 days
OPIOIDS			
Buprenorphine	Belbuca, Buprenex, Butrans, Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv	26–42 hrs	1–7 days
Norbuprenorphine, glucuronides	Buprenorphine metabolites	15–150 hrs	1–14 days
Codeine	Included in many preparations and could be a standalone medication; metabolized to morphine (typically ~10%), hydrocodone, norcodeine, and glucuronides; may be a contaminant of morphine; poppy seeds (low concentrations expected)	1.9–3.9 hrs	1–3 days
Fentanyl	Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora, Lazanda, Sublimaze, Subsys, Ionsys	3–12 hrs	1–3 days
Norfentanyl	Fentanyl metabolite	9–10 hrs	1–3 days
Heroin	Diacetylmorphine, dope, smack, dust; parent drug not detected		
6-acetylmorphine	Heroin metabolite; 6-monoacetylmorphine, 6-MAM; metabolized to morphine; codeine is a common contaminant	0.1–0.25 hrs	<1 day
Hydrocodone	Anexsia, Hycodan, Hyslinga, Lorcet, Lortab, Maxidone, Norco, Panacet, Vicodin, Zydone; codeine metabolite; may be a contaminant of oxycodone	3.4–8.8 hrs	1–3 days
Norhydrocodone	Hydrocodone metabolite		1–3 days
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid, Exalgo; morphine and hydrocodone metabolite	1.5–3.8 hrs	1–3 days
Meperidine	Demerol, Mepergan	2–5 hrs	1–2 days
Normeperidine	Meperidine metabolite	18–24 hrs	1–4 days
Methadone	Dolophine, Methadose	15–55 hrs	1–14 days
EDDP	Methadone metabolite; 2-ethylidene-1,5-dimethyl-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine	15–55 hrs	1–14 days
Morphine	Included in many preparations and could be a standalone medication; Astramorph, Avinza, DepoDur, Duramorph, Kadian, Mitigo, MS Contin; poppy seeds (low concentrations expected); heroin metabolite	1.3–6.7 hrs	1–3 days
Naloxone	Narcan, Kloxxado, Zimhi; with buprenorphine: Suboxone, Zubsolv (may not be detected due to low bioavailability)	1–2 hrs	1–2 days
Oxycodone	Oxycontin, Oxaydo, Roxybond, Roxicodone, Xtampza (with acetaminophen: Endocet, Oxycet, Percocet, Roxicet; with aspirin: Endodan, Percodan, Roxiprin; with ibuprofen: Combunox)	3–6 hrs	1–3 days
Noroxycodone	Oxycodone metabolite		1–3 days
Oxymorphone	Numorphan, Opana; oxycodone metabolite	7.5–9.5 hrs	1–3 days
Noroxymorphone	Oxycodone, oxymorphone, and naloxone (nornaloxone) metabolite		1–3 days
Propoxyphene	Darvon, Wygesic (with acetaminophen: Darvocet, Digesic); propoxyphene is discontinued in the U.S.	8–24 hrs	1–4 days
Norpropoxyphene	Propoxyphene metabolite	16–30 hrs	1–4 days

* A metabolite is an end product that is eliminated and remains after a drug is modified (metabolized) by the body.

† Detection limits and plasma half-lives should be considered estimates. Numerous factors can affect these numbers; call the laboratory to discuss detection limits.

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OPIOIDS			
Tapentadol N-desmethyltapentadol, tapentadol-O-sulfate	Nucynta Tapentadol metabolites	4 hrs	1–3 days 1–3 days
Tramadol O-desmethyltramadol, N-desmethyltramadol	Ultram, Ultracet, Seglentis, ConZip Tramadol metabolites	4–8 hrs 4–10 hrs	1–4 days 1–3 days
SEDATIVE-HYPNOTICS			
Alprazolam Alpha-hydroxyalprazolam	Xanax Alprazolam metabolite	6–27 hrs 13–20 hrs	1–4 days 1–4 days
Amobarbital	Formerly known as amylobarbitone or sodium amytal	8–42 hrs	1–7 days
Butalbital	Fioricet, Fiorinal, Esgic, Allzital, Axocet, Butapap	35–88 hrs	1–6 days
Carisoprodol	Soma	1–2.5 hrs	1–4 days
Chlordiazepoxide	Librium, Librax	85–110 hrs	1–10 days
Clonazepam 7-aminoclonazepam	Clonopin, Klonopin Clonazepam metabolite	19–60 hrs 30–92 hrs	1–4 days 1–4 days
Diazepam	Valium, Valtoco, Diastat	21–37 hrs	1–7 days
Lorazepam	Ativan, Loreev	9–16 hrs	1–7 days
Midazolam Alpha-hydroxymidazolam	Versed, Seizalam, Nayzilam Midazolam metabolite	1–4 hrs	1–2 days 1–2 days
Nordiazepam	Nordaz, Stilny, Madar, Vegesan, Calmday Metabolite of several drugs: clorazepate (Tranxene), diazepam (Valium), halazepam (Paxipam), prazepam (Centrax), chlordiazepoxide (Librium, Librax)	36–200 hrs	1–10 days
Oxazepam	Serax; nordiazepam, temazepam metabolite	4–11 hrs	1–7 days
Pentobarbital	Nembutal	15–50 hrs	1–21 days
Phenobarbital	Donnatal, Luminal; primidone metabolite	2–6 days	1–16 days
Secobarbital	Seconal	15–42 hrs	1–4 days
Temazepam	Restoril; diazepam metabolite	3–13 hrs	1–4 days
Zolpidem Zolpidem metabolite	Ambien, Edluar	2–3 hrs	1–3 days 1–3 days
OTHER			
11-nor-9-carboxy-delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol	Most laboratory testing does not distinguish between delta-9 and delta-8 isomers Marinol, Syndros, dronabinol, marijuana, weed, cannabis, ganja, hashish, pot, THC; cannabinoid metabolite	4–12 hrs	1–45 days
Ethanol Ethyl glucuronide, ethyl sulfate	Ethanol metabolites	2–14 hrs	<1 day 1–4 days
Gabapentin	Gralise, Horizant, Neurontin, Gabarone	5–7 hrs	1–2 days
Nicotine Cotinine 3-OH Cotinine	Tobacco, included in many preparations and could be a standalone medication Nicotine metabolites	0.4–1.5 hrs 18–20 hrs Variable	1–3 days 1–7 days
Phencyclidine (PCP)	PCP, angel dust	7–46 hrs	1–7 days
Pregabalin	Lyrica	3–6 hrs	1–2 days

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