

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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September 28, 1993

MLB #93-08

TO: Methadone Program Executive Directors
Methadone Program Clinic Directors
County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators
Methadone Drug Analysis Laboratories

SUBJECT: URINALYSIS SERVICES FOR METHADONE

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the requirement for methadone programs to purchase urinalysis services for methadone and its primary metabolite.

We recently learned that some methadone drug analysis laboratories may not be testing for methadone metabolite if the sample is positive for methadone itself.

California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 10315 requires that "(a) Programs shall obtain a full screen urinalysis for evidence of the following substances in a patients system: (1) Methadone and its primary metabolite." Seven additional chemicals are also listed. In addition, section 10395 requires the program to revoke a patients take-home privileges if "The patient's urinalysis discloses an absence of methadone, or methadone metabolite" Section 10320 requires programs to use the services of a licensed and certified methadone drug analysis laboratory.

In summary, each methadone program is required to purchase full screen urinalysis, which includes testing for methadone and the primary metabolite of methadone, for every urine sample required by regulation. Testing services must be performed by a methadone drug analysis laboratory licensed and certified by the Department of Health Services.

Please telephone Dick Golden at (916) 324-1834 should you have any questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy A. Jareors".

JOY A. JAREORS, Manager
Methadone Licensing Branch

cc: Emil R. de Vera
Licensed and Certified Methadone
Drug Analysis Laboratories

