

Changes to Drug Test Requesting on Unity

Drug screen requesting is changing to provide a streamlined, efficient and cost-effective service.

From 01/10/2024 you will need to request the specific tests that you require. The options for requesting these and indications for testing are summarised below. Other toxicology test requesting remains unchanged. Please contact the laboratory with any questions (swbh.toxicology@nhs.net).

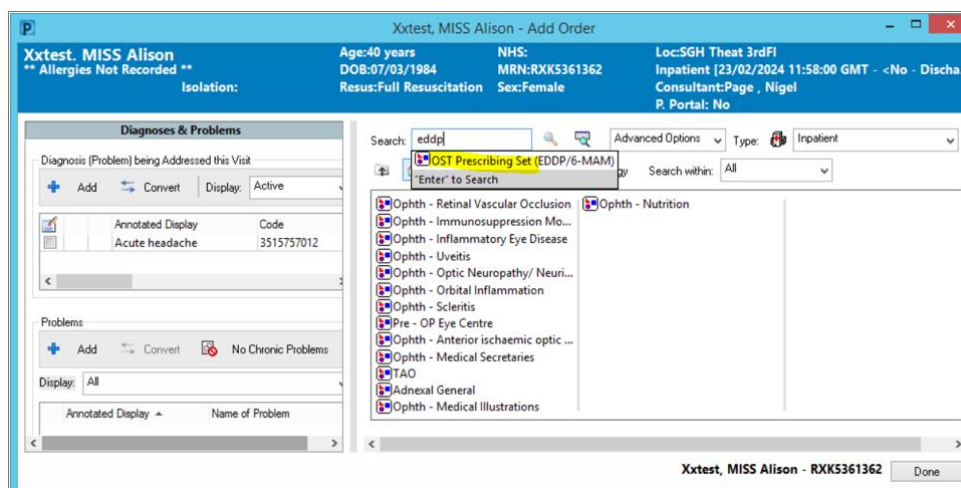
Summary

Test	Utility / Indication	Turn-around time target	Contact
OST Prescribing Set (EDDP / 6-MAM)	For methadone prescribing	1 hour from arrival	Biochemistry
Drugs of abuse (DOA) screen, urine	For initial presentations where there is suspicion of drug use	1 working day (urgent available – contact laboratory)	Toxicology
Unknown drugs screen (TOF)	Suspicion of drugs not included in DOA screen / DOA screen has not answered clinical question	1 working day (urgent available – contact laboratory)	Toxicology
Synthetic cannabinoids	Suspicion of synthetic cannabinoid use – these are not detected by DOA or TOF	1 working day (urgent available – contact laboratory)	Toxicology

Further information:

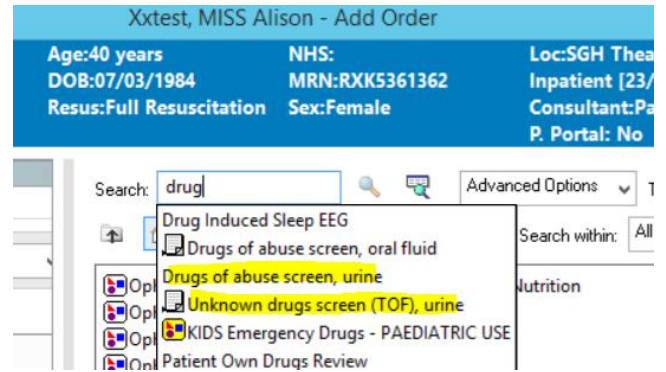
Unity test name: Opiate substitution therapy (OST) Prescribing set

- Primarily for methadone prescribing purposes.
- This is called **OST prescribing set** on unity and includes EDDP (methadone metabolite) and 6-MAM (heroin metabolite).
- The test will come up if you search OST, 6-MAM, EDDP or methadone.



Unity test name: **Drugs of abuse screen, urine**

- 32 commonly detected drugs of abuse and prescribed medications.
- Suitable for most initial presentations where there is suspicion of drug use.

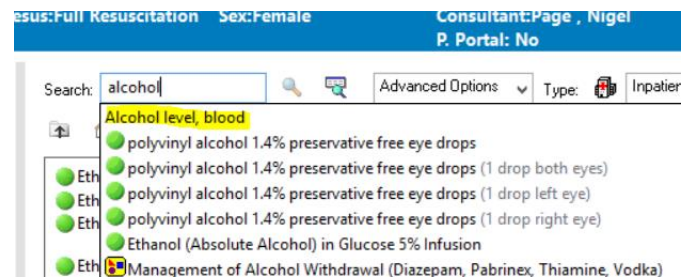


Unity test name: **Unknown drugs screen (TOF), urine**

- Screens for >1500 compounds including illicit and prescription drugs, cutting agents and other compounds.
 - Suitable for when there is suspicion of drug intake not included in drugs of abuse screen.
- NOTE: this is a broad screen and does not detect some drugs as well as the normal drugs of abuse screen. It is recommended to request drugs of abuse screen first unless something not included in that panel is strongly suspected. TOF can be added on by request if initial drugs of abuse screen has not answered clinical question.
- Contact toxicology laboratory if you want to check a certain compound is included prior to sending a sample.
 - Note: an unknown drugs screen will only be performed once per admission unless agreed with the clinical toxicology team or toxicology laboratory.

Unity test name: **Alcohol, blood**

For use when there is clinical suspicion of intoxication or determination of alcohol intake is required.



Unity test name: **Synthetic cannabinoids screen in blood or urine**

For use when there is clinical suspicion of synthetic cannabinoid use. Note: these will not be detected in routine drugs of abuse or the TOF unknown drug screen.

