



# Norman Regional

LABORATORY SERVICES

To: Medical Staff, Nursing Units, and Laboratory Clients

From: Eric Thompson, M.D., Robert Littlejohn, M.D., and Stephen Ingels, M.D.

Subject: Fentanyl testing (urine drug screen)

Date: May 11, 2023

Norman Regional Laboratory System is proud to announce that beginning Monday, May 15th, 2023 at 10AM, Fentanyl screening will be added to our in house urine drug screen (UDS).

Fentanyl is an opioid analgesic used widely in surgical operations and is a controlled substance. It is 50-100 times stronger than morphine and cases of fentanyl abuse via intravenous injection, inhalation, oral, or nasal applications have been previously reported. Fentanyl is used in the treatment of acute and chronic pain, usually in patients who no longer respond to high doses of less potent opioids such as morphine or oxycodone. Due to its potency and wide availability as a prescribed drug, fentanyl has been abused and misused by health professionals, pain management patients, and recreational abusers. Due to its short elimination half-life and approximately 90 % metabolism, fentanyl is difficult to detect in urine.

The Fentanyl assay is intended for the qualitative (presence or absence) determination of norfentanyl in human urine at a 5 ng/mL cutoff value. Measurement of norfentanyl, the primary metabolite of fentanyl, has greater clinical utility because it has a longer half-life, is more abundant in urine and more sensitive than fentanyl measurements. A positive result from this assay indicates only the presence of norfentanyl and does not necessarily correlate with the extent of physiological and psychological effects (e.g., intoxication). This test is not intended for quantifying the individual analytes in samples. Likewise a negative result does not necessarily mean a person did not abuse drugs.

### **Specimen Requirements:**

- Human urine >2.0 mls
- Stability- 7 days refrigerated (preferred) Ambient- 7 days
- Performed at all NRHS Lab testing sites: Porter, Healthplex, Norman Regional Moore and Norman Regional Nine 24 hrs per day 7 days per week
- Turnaround time: (STAT) 1 hour, (Routine) Same day/ 1 day

### **Ordering:**

- Fentanyl will be included as part of the Urine Drug Screen (UDS), and the Urine Drug screen with Confirmation (UDSCONF)
- Will also be available to order as a standalone test using mnemonic UFENTANYL (urine fentanyl screen).

Any questions may be directed to a pathologist at (405)307-1141, or Clinical Lab Manager, Ken Dohm at (405)307-1114.