

### Psychemedics Launches New Hair Alcohol Test

*Test Determines Consumption Levels of Alcohol by Measuring EtG in Hair*

In July, Psychemedics announced the launch of its hair alcohol test - a test that measures average alcohol consumption over a period of approximately three months, indicates the level of alcohol use during that time period, and can provide a behavioral indication of excessive use.



Alcohol is the most abused substance in the world, and excessive use poses serious health and safety issues to society. In other regions of the world, this test has been used effectively in the courts, corporate alcohol screening programs, and in monitoring medical issues and probation compliance. Psychemedics' new hair alcohol test provides answers about alcohol abuse and can be an indicator of those dependent on alcohol.

The test measures the amount of ethyl glucuronide (EtG) in the hair - a trace metabolite of ethanol and a direct alcohol biomarker - and follows the guidelines determined by the World Health Organization in association with the Society of Hair Testing for measuring consumption.

This non-invasive testing procedure uses a small sample of hair that is easily collected and shipped. All work is done by Psychemedics' College of American Pathologists (CAP) and ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified laboratory.

Continued advancement in the science of hair testing is critical to Psychemedics, and this new alcohol test provides our clients with another method to identify substance abuse.

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#### Statistics

\* Drug use in the workplace costs employers approximately \$81 billion in lost productivity.

- U.S. Department of Labor

\* Post accident drug tests found opiates up to 4 times more often than pre-employment tests, suggesting that these drug may be playing a role in workplace accidents.

- <http://tinyurl.com/m2xgap5>

#### Notes from Ray Kubacki

*Dear Valued Clients and Friends,*

*As the hair testing pioneer and leader, we strive to provide our clients with the most innovative technology and products available. In line with our mission to meet the changing and growing needs of the market, we are pleased to inform you that we are now offering a new hair alcohol test.*

*Our company has, for over twenty-five years, offered the most effective hair testing technology for drugs of abuse based upon scientifically validated drug testing methods. After many years of investing time and research into developing a hair alcohol test, we are proud to now provide a reliable test to measure alcohol consumption.*

*Please read above for more details about this new Psychemedics product offering. We look forward to speaking with you about how this new test could benefit your organization or school.*

*Best Regards,*

*Ray*



*Raymond Kubacki, Chairman & CEO,  
Psychemedics Corporation*

## Truck Driver Hair Testing Moves Forward at J.B. Hunt

(Psychemedics is proud to have J.B. Hunt as a longtime client and supporter of hair testing)



Positive results for drug use have kept more than 3,200 prospective drivers — including 1,700 who used cocaine and 71 who used cocaine in combination with opiates, heroin or amphetamines — from getting behind the wheel for J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. since May 2006.

While the pre-employment drug screening results might have kept those drivers off the J.B. Hunt payroll, they were not prohibited from climbing into the cab of an 18-wheeler elsewhere. All they had to do was find a company that does not use hair testing and then abstain from drug use as little as 24 hours. Current government regulations in place stipulate that urinalysis remains the only universally accepted and sharable method of drug testing for transportation companies. While firms are free to supplement their pre-employment screening with a more stringent method like hair testing, they are not allowed to report the findings outside of their own human resources offices.

So it is entirely possible that the 3,221 drivers who failed J.B. Hunt's drug tests since 2006 are on the road for somebody else. And only 90 of those users were flagged by the urine samples they submitted. "We deny them employment, but these people are likely driving a truck for somebody else," said Greer Woodruff, vice president of safety and security at J.B. Hunt. "... People with positive hair tests obviously do not need to be behind the wheel. These are the kind of people we screen out, and we think if more companies could do hair testing and share the results, we could move these people off the roads and out of commercial vehicles. Right now they're just moving to a different company."

Advocates would like to see legislation adopted that would allow companies their choice of testing options and then give them freedom to report their findings to others in the industry. Lane Kidd, president of the Arkansas Trucking Association, said co-sponsors are being sought for legislation that will enact the change needed.

"It makes no sense from a safety standpoint why federal agencies — which have said we must reduce accidents involving truck drivers — wouldn't recognize the method of drug testing that is most accurate and shows longest-term use of drugs," said Kidd. "Trucking companies are not [only] interested in if you used drugs yesterday. They want to know if there's a lifestyle of use."

(This article was published in "Arkansas Business" in June 2013: <http://tinyurl.com/l3oxdrg>)

### DRUGS IN THE NEWS

#### Job Sites Testing for Legal Drugs Too

Today, a new generation of screenings are increasingly being used to determine if potential — and often current — employees are taking highly addictive yet otherwise legal opiates, including Vicodin, Oxycontin, Dilaudid, Percocet and Percodan. As their use expanded, so did their abuse.

Problems arise when even the legal use of these drugs can hamper the performance of someone in a safety-sensitive position. Employers have an interest in knowing whether a worker is using or abusing these powerful drugs.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/life/article/Job-sites-testing-for-legal-drugs-too-4430788.php>

#### Co-Workers Could Be Cheating the Drug Test

You could be working next to someone who is high on drugs and the boss doesn't know because they passed a urine test. They are using products like the "urinator" and the "Wizinator." They all contain pre-mixed, synthetic urine.

Chris, a recovering addict, said he has used fake urine twice in the past five years to pass a drug test at work. One of those jobs was hundreds of feet up in the air working on towers. The fake urine allowed him to be high on the job while putting his co-workers at risk.

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/your-co-worker-could-be-cheating-drug-test/nYWxn/study-finds-km72vlg-172331511.html>



### ASTOUNDING FACTS

The cannabis plant can grow in nearly any environment and averages one to two inches of growth per day and up to 18 feet total in ideal conditions.

Source: [http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/02/27\\_marijuana.html](http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/02/27_marijuana.html)



## Problems Associated With Drug & Alcohol Abuse in the Workplace

*(This article recently appeared in the Houston Chronicle)*

More than 70 percent of substance abusers are employed, according to the American Council For Drug Education. In fact, one out of three workers is aware of drug sales conducted at work. It's all too easy to ignore the statistics and assume that the problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace are happening somewhere else. However, Americans consume 60 percent of the world's illicit drugs. In the workplace, substance abuser problems become your problems.

**Accidents:** Safety is the chief concern for responsible companies. Substance abusers are about three and a half times more likely to be involved in accidents on the job and five times more likely to hurt themselves at work, the American Council For Drug Education reports. They are also five times more likely to file for worker's comp. Worse yet, these substance abusers also are responsible for 40 percent of all industrial fatalities. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports that 10 to 20 percent of the nation's workers who die at work also test positive for drugs or alcohol.

**Lost Productivity:** The American Council For Drug Education says substance abusers are 10 times more likely to miss work and are 33 percent less productive even when they are at work. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that drug abusers cost American businesses \$128.6 in lost productivity in 2002. The cost of replacing an employee can cost anywhere from 25 to 200 percent of their annual compensation.

**Medical Expenses:** Employee substance abuse results in higher health care expenditures for illnesses and injuries, driving up your premiums. Studies show that drug abusers use up twice as many medical benefits as their coworkers, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The American Council For Drug Education adds that substance abusers are directly responsible for health care costs that are three times higher than the national average.



**Employee Morale:** Just seeing others abusing drugs or alcohol on the job can bring down employee morale. Over time, your best workers will grow tired of working harder while substance abusers take it easy. Everyone suffers when an estimated 3.1 percent of employed adults admit they've used illicit drugs before reporting to work and 7.1 percent drank on the job one or more times in the past year, according to sources cited by the U.S. Department of Labor.

<http://smallbusiness.chron.com/problems-associated-drug-alcohol-abuse-workplace-1238.html>



### Did You Know ??

*Psychemedics also offers a biometric test for alcohol detection*

In addition to our new hair alcohol test that measures levels of consumption over a period of months, Psychemedics (in partnership with TruTouch) also offers an optical test for frequent verification of sobriety on a daily or routine basis. The device is a tabletop instrument that detects alcohol concentration by directly measuring alcohol levels through the skin using a safe near infrared light and an optical touch pad. It also features biometric capability to verify user identity and ensure the integrity of the testing process. Please contact us at 877-517-2033 to learn more!

*Superior Detection  
of Drug Abuse*

**PSYCHEMEDICS  
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### **Why Choose Psychemedics?**

*Psychemedics Corporation is the world's largest provider of hair testing for drugs of abuse and has been successfully operating for over 25 years. Thousands of corporations, nationally and internationally, rely on the patented Psychemedics drug testing services. Psychemedics' clients include over 10% of the Fortune 500, many of the largest police departments both domestic and global, and six Federal Reserve Banks. In addition, the Company serves schools and colleges around the world. Our team of experts stand ready to help through every step: policy development, communication, implementation and sustainability.*

*Since 1987, Psychemedics has offered the most effective hair testing technology, based on scientifically validated drug testing methods. All hair testing is not the same – our patented technology uses a unique process to release the drugs trapped in the hair without destroying the drugs and removes virtually 100% of the drugs from the hair. Our patent is fundamental to hair analysis drug testing because if you cannot get all the drugs out of the hair, you cannot accurately measure them; and if you cannot accurately measure the drugs, you cannot identify all of the drug users. This proprietary technology provides superior detection of drugs of abuse, and is what sets us apart.*

The Psychemedics web site is [www.psychemedics.com](http://www.psychemedics.com)