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## Painkiller 10 Times Stronger Than Vicodin Worries Experts

As pharmaceutical companies are approaching the final stages of development for a new type of painkiller said to be 10 times stronger than Vicodin, addiction experts worry a new wave of abuse may soon follow.

If approved, it would mark the first time patients could legally buy pure hydrocodone. Existing products combine the drug with nonaddictive painkillers such as acetaminophen.

Hydrocodone belongs to a family of drugs known as opiates or opioids because they are chemically similar to opium. They include morphine, heroin, oxycodone,

codeine, and methadone.

"I have a big concern that this could be the next OxyContin," said April Rovero, president of the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse.

Oxycodone is now the most-abused medicine in the U.S., with hydrocodone second, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Critics are troubled because a new narcotic painkiller can lead to more murders, pharmacy robberies, and millions of dollars lost by hospitals to treat overdose victims. Thousands of legitimate pain patients are becoming addicted to



powerful prescription painkillers, they say, in addition to the thousands more who abuse them illegally.

The CDC said last month that prescription painkillers caused 15,000 U.S. deaths in 2008, more than triple the 4,000 deaths in 1999. The U.S. consumes 99 percent of the world's hydrocodone and 83 percent of its oxycodone.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-57348477-10391704/painkiller-10-times-stronger-than-vicodin-worries-addiction-experts/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-57348477-10391704/painkiller-10-times-stronger-than-vicodin-worries-addiction-experts/)

### Statistics

\* 32% of workers stated that a co-workers drug/alcohol use affected their job performance.

\* There was a 40% jump in employees that tested positive for prescription narcotics between 2005-2009.

- [www.drugrecognition.com](http://www.drugrecognition.com)

### Notes from Ray Kubacki

*Dear Valued Clients and Friends,*

*On page 3 you will read about a new patent that has been awarded to Psychemedics that is fundamental to hair analysis drug testing. As we have mentioned many times, "All Hair Testing Is Not The Same," and this patent continues to demonstrate our technological leadership.*

*Our unique process of liquefying the hair to release virtually 100% of the drug, and metabolites it contains, without destroying the drug, sets us apart from all other hair testing technologies. This is fundamental to hair analysis drug testing because if you cannot get the drugs out of the hair, the drugs cannot be measured. We are proud that our clients can rest assured that they are utilizing the best technology available to accurately identify drug users.*

*We are looking forward to working with you this year and send our best wishes for a successful and prosperous 2012.*

*Best Regards,*

*Ray*



Raymond Kubacki, Chairman & CEO,  
Psychemedics Corporation

## Exxon's Shale Driller Tightens Drug Testing for Rig Workers

### New Protocol Already Showing Results



Union Drilling Inc., the rig owner hired by Exxon Mobil Corp. to explore U.S. shale rock formations for natural gas, toughened drug testing of rig workers in an attempt to cut down on accidents. Drug abuse tends to be more frequent among drilling crews than other oilfield workers.



Union is switching to hair tests from urinalysis to detect drug use, Chief Executive Officer Christopher Strong said at the Pritchard Capital energy conference. The new protocol already has reduced emergency calls from its drilling sites, he said, according to a transcript of his presentation.

“The screening process on new hires has really been ramped up a lot,” Strong said. “We’re just not seeing nearly as much hotline traffic about problems on the rigs.”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-05/exxon-s-shale-driller-tightens-drug-testing-for-rig-workers.html>

## DRUGS IN THE NEWS

### 68% of Males Arrested Tested Positive for Drugs

A new federal study found that 68 percent of adult men booked into the Hennepin County jail tested positive for illegal drug use during a random, voluntary sampling conducted earlier this year.

Marijuana was the most common drug detected — 55 percent of those arrested tested positive — followed by cocaine at 16 percent, opiates at six percent, methamphetamines at 4 percent and oxycodone at 1.5 percent. Nearly 19 percent of the new inmates tested positive for more than one drug.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/11/29/arrestees-positive-drug-use/>

### Worldwide Illegal Drug Use Estimated 1 in 20 People Taking An Illegal Drug

Between 149 million and 271 million people worldwide used an illicit drug at least once in 2009, according to a new review of studies attempting to estimate the extent of the problem. That translates to 1 in 20 people aged 15 to 64 taking an illegal drug.

But this global figure is likely to underestimate the number of users, the researchers warn, since people might not want to admit to illegal use in surveys, and data from the poorest countries is limited.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500368\\_162-57353428/worldwide-illegal-drug-use-estimated-at-200-million-people-a-year/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500368_162-57353428/worldwide-illegal-drug-use-estimated-at-200-million-people-a-year/)



### ASTOUNDING FACTS

Around **90%** of property related crimes, especially theft, and 90% of street muggings **are made by drug addicts** who need money to support their addiction!!

Source: <http://www.alcoholism-and-drug-addiction-help.com/alcoholism-facts.html>





**Psychemedics in the News!**



**Psychemedics Awarded Patent Fundamental To Hair Analysis Drug Testing**

*The world's largest drug testing company using hair analysis received its seventh United States Patent dedicated to liquefying hair to release drug analytes.*

**Acton, Massachusetts, January 24, 2012** - Psychemedics Corporation (NASDAQ: PMD), hair testing pioneer and global leader for 25 years, announced today that the United States Patent Office issued a seventh patent, US No. 8,084,215, to the company. This patent focuses on liquefying hair and releasing drugs trapped in the hair without destroying the drugs. The new patented method can be used with a broad range of immunoassay screen techniques, mass spectrometry methods, and chromatographic procedures.

Raymond C. Kubacki, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are pleased to have received this patent which is fundamental to all hair analysis drug testing. This patent covers the efficient digestion of hair and release of the drugs without destroying the drugs---getting virtually 100% of the drug out of the hair. This is fundamental to hair analysis drug testing because if you cannot get the drugs out of the hair, the drugs cannot be measured." Kubacki continued, "Our ability to successfully release drug analytes from hair enables us to accurately identify more drug users, setting Psychemedics apart from all other hair testing technologies."

Kubacki added, "Psychemedics Corporation has, for 25 years, offered the most effective hair testing technology based upon scientifically validated drug testing methods. Receiving this patent demonstrates our on-going commitment to achieving the best possible test to accurately identify the greatest number of drug users."

**PSYCHEMEDICS Gives Stoners a Hair Pulling Experience**

Published On **Benzinga** ([www.benzinga.com](http://www.benzinga.com))

Whether you're a pill-popper, a pot-head or a crack-head, Psychemedics has the technology to sniff you out before your potential employer offers you a job.

Utilizing hair analysis technology, this Boston-area company delves into a potential employee's recent drug history, saving employers the time and hassle of hiring drug-addicted employees. According to the company's website, "Government studies from the late 1980s and early 1990s estimated that employing a drug user

costs an employer an average of \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year. These are conservative estimates and if the studies were done in 2010, the costs would be much more."

In other words, companies are literally throwing money away by not drug testing their employees. Considering that roughly 3 in 4 drug users is employed somewhere in America, many companies have turned to drug testing as an investment — a way to cut costs by eliminating larger health care bills and absenteeism down the

road. For years, the standard means of drug testing has been urinalysis. Almost everyone has, at one time or another, been forced to pee into a little cup in front of a nurse, all so that nurse can verify your urine doesn't show evidence of drug use. By now, most people have figured out how to beat a urine test. Most of the people I know who smoke pot regularly passed a urine test before accepting their current job. Why? Because it's stupidly easy to beat. That's where Psychemedics comes in.

To continue reading, visit: <http://www.psychemedics.com/blog/2011/11/psychemedics-gives-stoners-a-hair-pulling-experience/>

**Did You Know ??**

***Psychemedics Recognized Internationally For Highest Quality Laboratory Standards***

Psychemedics' laboratory was recently awarded ISO/IEC 17025 International Accreditation. This recognition is only given to a select group of laboratories worldwide, and the independent evaluation provides assurance of the laboratory's ability to maintain quality standards while conforming to international standards.

*Superior Detection  
of Drug Abuse*

**PSYCHEMEDICS  
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**About Psychemedics**

*Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 25 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' proprietary hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.*