

PSYCHEMEDICS DELIVERS NEW INSIGHTS WHEN A MARIJUANA TEST YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS

Identifies Cannabidiol (CBD) as a possible trigger for a positive

THE SUMMARY

As we all know, the number of CBD-related products available in the marketplace has been exploding. These products pose a challenge as marijuana has historically been the defacto source of THC. However, many CBD products also contain small amounts of THC.

Psychemedics now delivers an additional layer of insight when trying to determine the source of THC consumed by a hair sample donor.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

When we find significantly high concentrations of CBD relative to THC, we will inform our clients that the positive result on the marijuana panel may be the result of ingestion of CBD products.

WHAT IS CBD?

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a cannabinoid in the cannabis plant. There are over 100 identified cannabinoids in that plant, with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) being the psychoactive cannabinoid present in marijuana. CBD is not considered psychoactive and is marketed heavily in liquid oil, capsule, or as dried cannabis.

Although not considered psychoactive, a product that claims to solely contain, or is augmented by, CBD can contain up to 5% THC; because of this some Psychemedics clients are asking for a means to determine if a positive result on a marijuana hair test may be caused by ingestion of one of these products. Increasingly, CBD is being used to augment food items, supplements, and may be ingested as a smokable oil or inhalant as well.

ONE PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATION

There is currently one FDA-approved pharmaceutical derived from CBD. That pharmaceutical regulated by the FDA, Epidiolex, is used to treat two epilepsy disorders. It is the only CBD product that is governed by any formal oversight.

Perceived benefits. The nearly limitless claims on effectiveness as a health and wellness aid deliver the emotional trigger many people need to purchase and try products that claims to be solely, or are augmented by, CBD. Those claims include anxiety relief, pain control for arthritic conditions, sleep aid, reduction of muscle spasms, treatment for depression, management of acne, and a host of others.

Distribution channel. Spanning corner stores, online vendors, and direct marketing organizations, the exceedingly broad distribution channel to get products to the market means that it is likely to show up in virtually every workplace or on every campus in the country at some point.

Psychemedics Corporation is the world's leading hair drug testing company. Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology is trusted by Fortune 500 companies, police forces, courts, schools, and parents all over the world.

WHY IS CBD SUCH A TRICKY ISSUE?

CBD is not psychoactive. It is not marijuana. It may, according to some researchers, have significant yet not well-understood positive health and wellness impacts. So why is this such a hot-button issue in 2019? There are several reasons:

- **Lack of oversight.** The CBD industry is unregulated. There is no oversight over products, distribution channels or labeling claims.
- **Schedule I.** Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) any cannabis-derived product is a Schedule I drug. CBD falls into that category at the federal level.
- **Potential impacts on drug policy.** Historically, many drug policies have assumed that any THC metabolite detected in a drug test was the result of ingestion by marijuana. CBD introduces a new consideration. For DOT-regulated roles where any Schedule I drug is prohibited, or where employers and educators have adopted zero-tolerance policies for THC there should be no impact. But for others, the possibility that a positive result for THC on a drug test is the result of either marijuana or CBD ingestion may require they rethink or reshape their policy.
- **State statutes.** The legality of CBD varies state by state.
- **Testing.** Although some employers or educators may implement zero tolerance policies for a positive result for C-THC regardless of source, others want to know whether the source may have been ingestion of marijuana or CBD. The Psychemedics test delivers one additional layer of insight to use when making a policy decision.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE FROM PSYCHEMEDICS?

Psychemedics delivers this insight by detecting the presence of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), CBD (cannabidiol), CBN (cannabinol), and THCV (tetrahydrocannabivarin) using mass spectrometry. This enables differentiation between THC that is the result of marijuana ingestion versus that which may have come from ingestion of a product that solely contains or is augmented by CBD. Employers and educators can use the additional insights when making drug policy decisions.

HOW IS THIS REPORTED?

For samples that test positive on the marijuana test but CBD cannot be ruled out as the cause, you will see this on your report:

"CBD cannot be ruled out as the cause of the positive results."

ADDING THE TEST TO YOUR PANEL

You do not need to add anything to your panel. We will provide these insights for any samples that test positive for THC metabolites.

AVAILABILITY

This is already incorporated into our testing protocol.

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