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Hair Drug Testing - Information Sheet 1

Hair types and growth rates.

Head hair grows at an average rate of 1cm per month (range 0.6 to 1.4). The hair can be analysed in segments of 1cm length to represent approximately 1 month of hair growth to a maximum segment length of 3cm (representing 3 months). At least 1cm hair growth is required for hair collection.

By analysing a number of segments along the hair length it is possible to show drug use within a particular period providing the drug concentration is sufficient for detection.

Head hair is the preferred sample however if this is not available then hair from other regions of the body (e.g. pubic, beard or under-arm) can be analysed. Hair from other regions of the body grows at a much more variable rate and as such it is not possible to estimate a time frame from the length of the hair.

Collection procedure.

Hair can be collected and sent to our facility by a health professional, a police officer or through an accredited workplace drug testing agency.

Email request to FSSA@sa.gov.au with details to send them the appropriate collection kit and instructions.

Please note about a pencil thickness of hair is required for collection.

Cost and payment details.

The cost for the analysis is \$688.18 + GST (total \$757.00) for each segment (e.g. if you are only interested in drug use in a three month period then one segment 3 cm in length would be analysed at a cost of \$688.18 + GST.

However, if you wanted to approximate in which month of a three monthly period the drugs were used then this would require three individual monthly segments to be analysed with a total of \$2064.54 + GST (total \$2271).

Payment is required prior to any analysis of the hair.

The default and maximum segment length of hair for analysis is 3 centimetres which equates to approximately 3 months prior to sampling. Analysis of lengths greater than this may result in any drug present being diluted to concentrations below the limit of detection of the analysis method. In general the longer the length of the segment analysed the more difficult it is to detect occasional drug use over the corresponding period.

The cost is for an analytical service that includes the preparation of a report but does not include an interpretative report nor does it cover any court appearance time.

Payment may be made by cash, cheque (made out to Forensic Science SA) or by credit card. For credit card payments please contact Forensic Science SA on 08 8226 7700 or <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/attorneygeneralsdepartment> –

Follow the prompts as per below

Biller Code: Forensic Services

Full Name: Person paying for the testing.

Contact Number /Email: If Forensic Science SA requires to contact you.

Customer Reference: Subject's Name – eg: The donor

Amount (AUD): depending on the amount of segments is required eg: 1 segment (\$757.00)

Drugs covered by the test.

The drugs covered by this analysis, and their associated lower and upper limits of reporting are:

Drug	Lower limit of reporting[†] (pg/mg)	Upper limit of reporting[#] (pg/mg)
delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ^9 - THC) [*]	50	1000
amphetamine	20	2500
methylamphetamine	20	2500
3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	20	2500
3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	20	2500
cocaine	20	2500
benzoylecgonine (metabolite of cocaine)	20	2500
codeine	20	2500
morphine	20	2500
6-monoacetylmorphine (metabolite of heroin)	20	2500
fentanyl	20	1250
methadone	20	2500
oxycodone	20	2500
pethidine	20	2500
ketamine	20	2500
zolpidem	20	2500
alprazolam	50	6000
diazepam	50	6000
nordiazepam	50	6000
lorazepam	50	6000
midazolam	50	6000
oxazepam	50	6000
temazepam	50	6000
7-aminoclonazepam (metabolite of clonazepam)	Reported as present only	
7-aminoflunitrazepam (metabolite of flunitrazepam)	Reported as present only	
7-aminonitrazepam (metabolite of nitrazepam)	Reported as present only	

^{*} Concentrations lower than the LLOR will be reported as 'not detected'

[#] Concentrations above the ULOR will be reported as 'greater than [ULOR]'

Note that the screening of Δ^9 - THC is performed using a separate procedure

Any further queries please email FSSA@sa.gov.au .