

CONNECT



NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS) URINE DRUG PANEL

Effective June 16, 2025, the Novel Psychoactive Substances Panel (NPS), also known as designer or synthetic drugs or "legal highs," is designed to have similar effects to illicit drugs while circumventing existing laws regarding drug control and scheduling guidelines. These drugs include designer opioids, fentanyl analogues, and designer benzodiazepines. NPS are manufactured with the intent to mimic the effects of traditional illicit substances and are marketed as legal alternatives to traditional drugs, making them readily available online and at some retail shops. Testing is performed via LC/MSMS.

NEW TUMOR MARKERS

The Molecular department at CompuNet has started performing two new tests that detect genetic mutations that cause cancer. CompuNet started performing the BCR/ABL1 Gene Rearrangement PCR assay in May 2025, and the Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Core Diagnosis Panel in March 2025.

The BCR/ABL1 assay detects the Philadelphia Chromosome that is found in most patients with chronic myeloid leukemia and in some patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. This mutation occurs when segments from two different chromosomes break off and attach to the other chromosome. This aberrant fusion gene impairs physiological signaling and allows white blood cells to grow uncontrollably. Quantitative measurement of BCR/ABL1 levels over time is important to monitor disease progression and response to therapy.

The Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Core Diagnosis Panel is performed by Next Generation Sequencing and detects mutations in three genes (JAK2, CALR, and MPL) that are associated with myeloproliferative disease. The JAK2 gene encodes for a protein (Janus Kinase 2) that promotes cell growth, particularly in blood cells. Mutations in this gene, as well as CALR and MPL, can lead to myeloproliferative neoplasms where the body produces excessive amounts of blood cells. These three oncogenes promote growth through a signaling pathway that is mediated by JAK2. Myeloproliferative disorders with these mutations typically respond to JAK2 inhibitors.

WHOLE BLOOD ON MICUS

We are now expanding our prehospital whole blood program to include the MICUs (Mobile Intensive Care Units). They will be one of the first ground transport services in Ohio to carry whole blood. Each of the MICUs will carry two low-titer group O whole blood units. Early blood administration has been shown to improve outcomes in patients suffering from hemorrhagic shock. By increasing the availability of this product, countless lives can be saved.



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NEW URINE PROCESSING GUIDE: HELPING YOU HELP US

To ensure smooth and accurate processing of urine specimens, we're excited to share a new Urine Processing Guide infographic. This easy-to-follow visual highlights key steps for proper specimen collection, including:

- How much to fill the collection cup
- Which tubes to use for specific tests
- Important reminders about tube caps

Following these guidelines helps reduce delays, avoid re-collection, and ensures quality testing for every patient. You can view or download the guide [insert link or instructions here].

Thank you for your continued partnership in delivering the best possible care!

Urine Processing Guide

Cup:



Used for collection of urine.

Urinalysis:

FILL BETWEEN THESE LINES



DO NOT REMOVE YELLOW CAP

TEST NAME/TEST CODE:

Urinalysis Complete (w/Microscopic)/**UCOMP**
Urinalysis Chemical/**UMAC**
Urinalysis Microscopic/**UMIC**

Urine Culture:

FILL TO THIS LINE



DO NOT REMOVE GRAY CAP

TEST NAME/TEST CODE:

Urine Culture (C&S, UC, UCX)/**CULURN**

REFLEX TESTING:

MUST SEND BOTH YELLOW AND GRAY TUP TUBE

Urinalysis (Reflex to Culture)/**UARFXC**
Urinalysis (Reflex to Microscopic)/**UARFXM**