



NEWSLETTER

Drug and Alcohol Testing Branch

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Negative Dilute Results

Should the donor go back in?

According to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Medical Review Officer \(MRO\) Manual](#), a federal HHS drug test result reported as “negative dilute” from the lab, and verified by the MRO, requires the agency direct a recollect from the donor immediately and without observation.

This guidance to recollect immediately for a negative dilute is also stated at the bottom of the Lab Results Report, usually in the “Result Explanation” section. This guidance applies to HHS testing authority.

Negative Dilute Results

Is the donor trying to cheat?

Not necessarily! A dilute specimen is a urine specimen with creatinine and specific gravity values that are lower than expected but are still within the physiologically producible ranges of human urine. A dilute finding possibly, but not necessarily, indicates that a donor may have intentionally consumed large amounts of fluid or taken diuretics in an attempt to reduce any drug concentrations to test below the cutoffs. A donor could provide a dilute specimen in other situations (e.g., because the donor drank fluid to provide a specimen when required at the collection site).



What if the Donor Falls under DOT regulations?

Department of Transportation (DOT) has different direction for dilute specimens

DOT regulations are different from HHS. An immediate recollection under direct observation is necessary if the creatinine concentration of a negative-dilute specimen was greater than or equal to 2mg/dL but less than or equal to 5mg/dL. The MRO notifies the employer when this occurs and that a recollection is necessary.

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