



# Poison HOTLINE

Partnership between Iowa Health System and  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

November 2012



## Did you know .....

When a patient says they are using “Oxi” or “Oxy,” they may be using one of three things:

- “Oxy” may refer to Oxycodone (Oxycontin)
- “Oxy” may refer to Oxymorphone (Opana)
- “Oxi” may refer to Oxidado (“oxidized”) which is a smoke able form of cocaine and is usually a small yellow or light brown stone that looks like crack cocaine.

The patient’s clinical effects may help differentiate “Oxy” from “Oxi”.

As always, health care providers should clarify the terminology of slang terms.

## Urine Drug Screening

Urine drug screening is done to assess whether a person has taken or been exposed to certain drugs of abuse. Urine drug screens (UDS) are frequently used in the emergency departments, pain clinics and addiction treatment centers. Interpretation of UDS results needs to be done in light of the patient’s history and with knowledge of the limitations of the test that is used.

Commonly used UDSs test for a limited number of specific compounds (e.g. cocaine, PCP, methadone, etc) and a limited number of drug groups (e.g. opiates, benzodiazepines, etc). UDSs produce false-positive results from cross-reacting medications and fail to produce positive results despite certain medications being present in the urine (i.e. a false negative result).

Cannabinoids	Opiates	PCP
Efavirenz	Chlorpromazine	Dextromethorphan
Ibuprofen	Ciprofloxacin	Diphenhydramine
Ketoprofen	Dextromethorphan	Doxylamine
Naproxen	Levofloxacin	Ibuprofen
Pantoprazole	Ofloxacin	Tramadol
Promethazine	Rifampin	Venlafaxine
Methadone	Benzodiazepines	Amphetamines
Quetiapine	Oxaprozin	Bupropion
Verapamil	Sertraline	Phenylephrine
		Pseudoephedrine

### Partial list of medications known to cause false positive UDS test results

For many UDSs, there are numerous opiates that will not be detected by the general opiate assay and numerous BDZs that will not be detected by the general BDZ assay. Fentanyl, hydrocodone, meperidine, oxycodone and oxymorphone commonly produce false negative opiate results while alprazolam, clonazepam and lorazepam commonly produce false negative BDZ results for many UDSs. The technical documentation provided by the manufacture for a specific UDS usually lists the drugs that will cause false positives and false negatives.

When dealing with acute overdoses, it is rare that a UDS will provide clinically relevant information that will change patient care. Given the numerous false positives and false negatives with UDSs, it is more important to assess and treat the patient and not be focused on “treating the drug screen.”

Edward Bottei, MD  
Medical Director, ISPC



Post and share this edition of **Poison Hotline** with your colleagues. Send comments or questions to Poison Hotline, 712-234-8775 (fax) or [nobletf@ihs.org](mailto:nobletf@ihs.org). To subscribe or unsubscribe from this distribution list, contact the Iowa Poison Center education office at 712-279-3717. Read past issues of **Poison Hotline** at [www.iowapoison.org](http://www.iowapoison.org).