



Occupational Health Services
of America, Inc.



Dr. Bruce Irwin, & Dr. James M. Allen , AAMRO

May 1, 2008

DRUNK OR DRUGGED???

My employee acted drunk but the alcohol test was negative!

The drug screen is negative. How can that be? He could not even walk a straight line!

The above comments are common responses that our staff hears from employers. Our staff will often respond by asking if the employer wants the drug screen tested for additional drugs. You will be asked, "Do you want to do a nine panel drug screen." Here's why...

There are several drugs that are not included on the basic five panel drug screen. Actually, at last count there were 85 additional drugs. Many of these drugs will produce the same behavior as alcohol. The following drugs (but not limited to) have the side effects of slurred speech, disorientation, drowsiness, decreased muscle control, sleepiness, confusion, depressed breathing or in other words, "drunken behavior."

Barbiturates – butalbital, phenobarbital, esgic plus, fiorinal, and fioricet are a few of the medications with this drug.

Benzodiazepines – alprazolam, ativan, diazepam, Librium, tranxene, serax, valium, and zanax are a few of the common medications with this content.

Methadone – medications include dolophine and methadose.

Opiates and Synthetic Opiates – Codeine, Morphine, any medication with A-C attached, are pure opiates. Synthetic opiates are hydrocodone and hydromorphone under the names of Bancap HC, lorcet, lortab, panacet, vicodin and zydone, just to name a few.

Propoxyphene – medications under the name of same or darvocet, darvon, dolene or wygesic, just to name a few.

All of these medications will produce drunken behavior. These medications are also covered under the nine panel drug screen.

THIS PANEL CAN BE ORDERED FOR YOU. THE TWO FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THIS 9 PANEL:

- 1. Does your drug policy specify which drugs are included in your drug test?**
- 2. Every employee (except DOT) needs to have the same drug panel tested.**

As always, our staff is only a phone call away to answer any questions, or guide you to the best drug screen for you.

OHSA Staff:

Dr. Bruce Irwin, Dr. James Allen, Priscilla McCain, Sherri Queen,
Bridgette Mason, Linda Tucker, & Charlotte O'Barr