

North Carolina Dept of Correction  
Division of Community Corrections  
Presentation to  
the  
  
University of North  
Carolina School of  
Government  
  
on

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The  
  
Substance Abuse Screening  
Program

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**SASIP**

- Comprehensive statewide program offering both instrument based drug screening and non-instrument screening (handheld, instant result)
- Third party confirmation with state-of-the-art GC/MS testing
- Provides drug screening services to outside agencies
- Monitoring of drug trends
- Intervention program development and monitoring
- Training

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**What IS Substance Abuse Screening?**

**Substance Abuse Screening is a supervision tool used to identify offenders with substance abuse problems so appropriate treatment services may be provided.**

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**DCC (Division of Community Corrections) uses Substance screening to :**

- Develop substance abuse treatment plans
- Provide validation to encourage offenders to enter treatment

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**Who Do We Screen?**

An offender under delegated authority or whose judgment or parole or post-release supervision agreement includes the special condition to submit to substance abuse screening will submit a urine specimen on a random and/on routine basis under the following conditions:

- The PPO has reason to believe that the offender currently is under the influence of or recently has used illegal drugs
- The offender is observed to be in possession of drugs, or is controlling, occupying or inhabiting an area where illegal drugs are found or observed
- The PPO receives information from a reliable source that the offender is currently under the influence of or has recently used illegal drugs.
- Increased drug screening and staffing for appropriate treatment levels is expected for an offender who continues to test positive.

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**When completed correctly, Substance Abuse Screening:**

- Acts as a deterrent to ongoing drug use & abuse
- Provides immediate challenge to positive use with onsite devices and notification to treatment provider, or treatment provider referral.

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**When to test Probationers**

- RANDOM TESTING
- CAUSE AND SUSPICION

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**RANDOM TESTING**

- Not being predictable to the point where the offender will abstain or otherwise be prepared for *scheduled* drug screening.

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**CAUSE AND SUSPICION**

- Reason to believe or have information from a reliable source the offender is under the influence of illicit drugs or has used them.

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**Testing method**

Our method of testing for drugs is through urine by means of on-site tests & laboratories

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**Urine Testing Benefits**

- Drugs may be detected for a longer period of time within urine with a higher concentration of drug metabolites within the body's waste supply.
- On-site urine tests & Lab instruments can screen for numerous drugs of abuse.
- Multiple panel on-site urine tests will determine potential drug(s) of choice and allow for future concentration of drug testing & treatment focus.

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## On-site Testing

We use two of types of on-site testing within our department :

- Drug Panel (single to multi-) urine on-site testing
- Oral Alcohol Onsites

.....and will touch on other types of onsite testing available and discuss their advantages and disadvantages.

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## Urine On-site testing



DCC's primary way for offender drug testing is on-site urine tests. Pictured here is a four-panel unit which tests for cocaine, methamphetamines, marijuana, and opiates. Our office orders over 200,000 on-sites for the officers. The advantages to using on-sites is the instant result it gives the officer. If the test is disputed, it is sent to one of our 2 drug testing labs (collection methods are explained later)

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## What Drugs Do the On-sites Detect

### Onsite Screens

- Benzodiazepine
- Methamphetamines
- Propoxyphene
- Methadone
- Oxycodone
- Barbiturates
- PCP
- Suboxone
- THC
- Cocaine
- Amphetamines



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### Average Detection Times for Drugs

THC	2-3 Days to 10-12 days
Cocaine	6-72 Hours
Opiates	1-2 Days
Amphetamines	1-2 Days
Methadone	2-3 Days
Benzodiazepines	2-3 Days to weeks

Source: Amy K Adkins, Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics

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### Alcohol On-site testing



- Federal DOT approved Test
- Enforcement of court ordered alcohol abstinence

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- Test given after 15 minutes observation period of no objects introduced into the mouth
- Detects presence of alcohol, .02% blood level, within 4 minutes.

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### DCC policy for Specimen Collection

- Orientation given of what's expected and what will occur after sample is received.
- Same Sex observation needed.
- No extra clothing, purses, or other items are allowed into the restroom.
- The offender remains in the presence of the officer without access to a water fountain, faucet, soap dispenser, cleaning agent, or other material which could be used to adulterate (methods discussed later in the presentation) the specimen.
- The offender has to roll up his or her sleeves and wash hands prior to administering the specimen for testing

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- The PO Completes the DCC Chain of Custody Form
- The offender initials and places tamper proof evidence tape on their specimen
- Offender adds identification label after confirmation of all information on label is correct. Check for leaks.
- Offender places the specimen in transport bag and officer must observe specimen is sealed within.
- Sample is placed in a secure environment inaccessible to unauthorized persons.

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### LABORATORY TESTING



We screen for urine in our labs by use of the Olympus AU400<sup>®</sup> chemistry analyzer.

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We have 2 laboratories. One in Greensboro and the other in Fayetteville. These labs process over 12,000 samples, average, per month.

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### What drugs does the lab screen for

➤ Lab Screens

- Cannabinoids/THC/Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Meth/amphetamines
- Benzo
- Methadone
- Propoxyphene

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### Cut-off Levels

positive test 

300ng/ml \_\_\_\_\_

negative test 

**NEGATIVE DOES NOT MEAN NO DRUG**

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How does the Analyzer work ???

It's quite simple.....

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....as shining a flashlight beam through a test tube!

Here's how it works:

- The AU400e is a spectrophotometer which measures light separated by a compound and its absorbance after it passes through its sample.
- By mixing the samples with special reagents, the compounds refract light from the beam (our 'flashlight') projected onto the test tube into different wavelengths and its absorbance is measured. Different levels for the different reagents indicates the different drug levels.

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What if the offender disputes the positive drug test?

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## A confirmation test is ordered.

An officer can request a confirmation test by GC/MS (gas chromatograph/mass spectrometry) from a third party, or outside, lab for a definite answer.

Our analyzers are quite precise but when results are disputed, outside labs with no interest in the outcome, perform the testing.

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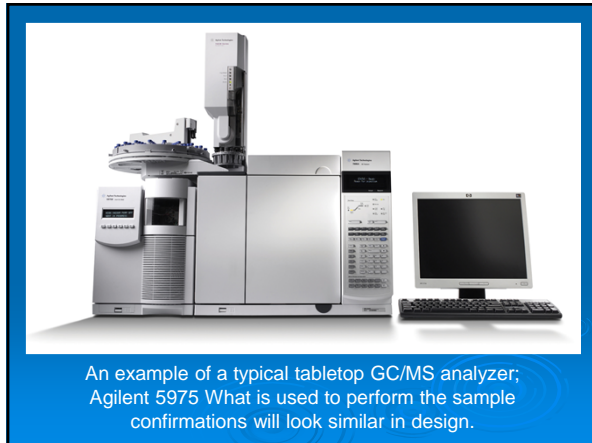
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## •What's a GC/MS & how does it work?

Simply put, a GC/MS, Gas chromatograph /mass spectrometer, is an analyzer which uses heat and gas to separate a compound (chromatograph) and an analyzer to detect the various levels of molecules in the chemical compound.

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To better explain how it works, let's think about **sal** and examine this as if it's a compound such as fluids from the body.



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For example, we're looking for the number, or concentration, of onions in the salsa and compare that to a concentration of a drug compound found in urine.

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From this point, the salsa is prepared in such a way where it is 'separated' into its individual components, this is the Gas Chromatograph (GC) part, and the Mass Spectrometry (MS) part of the analyzer uses standards in preparation to tell us how many onions, the concentration, in our salsa compound. The urine testing is done in a similar method.



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Please keep in mind, lab work does **NOT** operate as it does on the popular CSI TV series. We do not receive answers from analyzers in 30 seconds on identifying and interpreting a compound!

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### Specimen Validity Testing

#### Adulteration

The act of introducing a substance(s) into the urine specimen to intentionally nullify the result of and disrupt the screening chemistry.

#### Examples of adulteration

Bleach, Perfume, Nitrites, Sure-jell, UrineLuck  
Lysol (yellow), substituted urine.

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### Methods of Adulteration

Substitution

External Adulteration

Internal Adulteration

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## External Adulteration



An example of an sample, a diluted bleach solution, came into one of our labs. When compared to another sample from the same offender given four days later.....

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.....you can see the obvious difference. This demonstrates the efforts offenders will take in order to "pass" a urine screening. An on-site test would have passed the adulterated sample.

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**UrineLuck**- an example of another external adulterant used to change the condition of urine. It instructs the user to pour in 60-90mls of urine and insists on urination several times before adding this compound. In other words, diluting out urine NATURALLY before use. All for \$31.95.

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### Internal Adulteration

Offenders may try to throw screenings by use of:

•**Water loading**-drinking large amounts of water before a test, more than 16 oz to dilute urine.



•**Shake products**- products added to WATER and ingested prior to screens.

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**MAGNUM**: Another example of a product for internal urine adulteration which instructs the user to DRINK a liquid to dilute before giving a drug screen. Basically, a glorified and pricey Gatorade drink.

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<http://GNC>

Another external adulterant called the **Acme Total Eclipse Berry Blast** is sold at a vitamin shop. For \$44.99 (16 oz), it's advertised to detoxify a system and requires the user to urinate several times before use.

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For \$44.99 (16 oz), it's advertised to detoxify a system and requires the user to consume large quantities of water AND urinate several times before use.

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**The Whizzinator:  
Home Edition**

This device was discovered in Cumberland County in June 2008 when an officer noticed an offender was having problems giving a sample and tinkering with a device. The person was searched and this was discovered; a saline IV bag with urine inside and sealed with duct tape.

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**§ 14-401.20. Defrauding drug and alcohol screening tests; penalty.**

(a) It is unlawful for a person to do any of the following:

(1) Sell, give away, distribute, or market urine in this State or transport urine into this State with the intent that it be used to defraud a drug alcohol screening test.

or

(2) Attempt to foil or defeat a drug or alcohol screening test by the substitution or spiking of a sample or the advertisement of a substitution or other spiking measure.

sample device or

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(b) It is unlawful for a person to do any of the following:

- (1) Adulterate a urine or other bodily fluid sample with the intent to defraud a drug or alcohol screening test.
- (2) Possess adulterants that are intended to be used to adulterate a urine or other bodily fluid sample for the purpose of defrauding a drug or alcohol screening test.
- (3) Sell adulterants with the intent that they be used to adulterate a urine or other bodily fluid sample for the purpose of defrauding a drug or alcohol screening test.

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c) **A violation of this section is punishable as follows:**

- (1) For a first offense under this section, the person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- (2) For a second or subsequent offense under this section, the person is guilty of a Class I felony. (2002-183, s. 1.)

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### PARTNERSHIPS

- DOC-Department of Correction
- DCC-Division of Community Corrections
- DACDP – Division of Alcoholism & Chemical Dependency Program
- DART-Drug Alcohol Rehabilitation Treatment

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PARTNERSHIPS

- DHHS - Department of Health & Human Services
- TASC-Treatment Alternatives Safer Communities
- AOC - Administrative Office of the Courts
- DTC- Drug Treatment Court

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Thank you for your  
time today.

For more information , please call or write:  
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Theresa Schwab (919) 716-3133 [stb10@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:stb10@doc.state.nc.us)

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