



### ACM Names new Vice President of Laboratory Medical Affairs

ACM is proud to announce that Robert Carlson, MD, has been named as Vice President, Laboratory Medical Affairs, with responsibility for overseeing medical and laboratory affairs at ACM's four global laboratories. In this role, Dr. Carlson will serve as the primary medical officer for ACM's Clinical Trials and Medical Diagnostic businesses, responsible for oversight of ACM's laboratory quality, scientific, compliance, and patient care elements.

Dr. Carlson received his BS degree in Chemistry from Pacific University and MD degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Carlson is a Board Certified Pathologist and served as Pathology Department Chairman at the Marshfield Clinic for more than 15 years.

## ACM Medical Laboratory Expands Clinical Toxicology Test Menu to include Oral Fluid Testing

ACM Medical Laboratory is proud to offer a major addition to our Toxicology test menu: Oral Fluid Drug Testing. ACM will be offering the following FDA approved Oral Fluid Assays: Amphetamine, Barbiturate, Benzodiazepine, Cannabinoid (THC), Cocaine, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Opiate, and Phencyclidine (PCP). In addition to the above assays, 3 Non FDA approved assays will also be offered to help enhance the menu. These include: Buprenorphine, Oxycodone, and Ethanol. Finally, an Oral fluid validity assay (IgG) has been developed to confirm the proper collection of sample by the patient.

Oral fluid drug testing is an alternative to urine drug testing. Oral fluid (OF) consists of all the fluids produced in the mouth, through the buccal and labial mucosa. Because OF is directly related to the contents of the bloodstream, drug tests can be performed on these samples. The components of OF are very different than urine, so the tests used to detect drugs in OF detect both different concentrations and different drug compounds. For instance, OF drug screens tend to detect more parent drugs, rather than the drug metabolites found in urine. Drug transfer through the mucosa is driven by a variety of factors, such as pH and protein content of the OF; this means that some drugs readily move into OF and some drugs do not.

There are both positive and negative aspects of OF testing: On the positive side, sample collection is convenient and easily observed, collection devices are easy to use and ship, OF specimens can be an alternative for patients unable to produce a urine specimen, and collecting different sample types (OF vs. urine) makes it harder for patients to fool the test.

On the negative side, OF testing is comparatively new and testing technologies are still evolving; there are currently no FDA approved assays for Buprenorphine, Oxycodone, and Ethanol. ACM also does not offer any confirmation OF drug tests, so OF is not an appropriate specimen when the results may be used in court. There are few well-defined ways to establish that sufficient OF has been collected from the patient; this may lead to false negative results. OF tests are also tied to a specific collection device and these devices are proprietary to their manufacturers, making testing more expensive. Patients with chronic dry-mouth, including those on prescription medication or opiate replacement therapy, may be unable to produce an adequate OF specimen.

The repercussions of drug testing are usually quite significant for the patient, so the clinicians deciding between OF and urine drug test should carefully evaluate which sample type will be most beneficial for their client.

For additional information and cutoffs please contact your ACM field service representative.