A Life in the Community for Everyone
SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road • Rockville, MD 20857
www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

JAN 26 2012

TO: Administrator

FROM: Director, CSAP

SUBJECT: Recommendations from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Drug Testing Advisory Board - **ACTION**

ISSUE

Two recommendations from SAMHSA's Drug Testing Advisory Board (DTAB) to expand the federal workplace drug testing program as follows: (1) to evaluate the scientific sufficiency of oral fluid as a potential alternative specimen; and (2) to evaluate the scientific sufficiency of Schedule II prescription medications.

DISCUSSION

The Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (Mandatory Guidelines) establish the scientific and technical guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs and establish standards for certification of laboratories engaged in drug testing for Federal agencies, under authority of section 503 of Public Law 100-71, 5 U.S.C. Section 7301 note, and Executive Order (E.O.) 12564. SAMHSA publishes the Mandatory Guidelines as required by federal law. The Guidelines were first published in the Federal Register on April 11, 1988 (53 FR 11970) and have since been revised numerous times, most recently on April 30, 2010 (75 FR 22809).

SAMHSA's DTAB is a scientific council that advises SAMHSA's Administrator and reviews SAMHSA's program for national laboratory certification for Federal workplace drug testing programs as required by Public Law 100-71 and as described in the Mandatory Guidelines. The DTAB recommends areas for emphasis or de-emphasis, new or changed directions, and mechanisms or approaches for implementing recommendations, and reviews specific science areas on new drugs of abuse and the methods necessary to detect their presence.

On July 13, 2011, the DTAB considered, discussed, and voted on the following two recommendations in an open public session:

Recommendation 1.
Based on review of the science, DTAB recommends that SAMHSA include oral fluid as an alternative specimen in the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs.

Recommendation 2.
DTAB recommends the inclusion of additional Schedule II prescription medications (e.g., oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone) in the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs.

With these two recommendations, the DTAB supports the utilization of the best available science for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs, as required by statute. These recommendations also support SAMHSA's Strategic Initiative on the Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness.

The DTAB recommendations were reviewed by the Prescription Drug Subcommittee of HHS' Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee (BHCC) to ensure that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Operating Divisions and Offices are in agreement with these recommendations. All questions raised by BHCC members were satisfactorily resolved and there are no outstanding concerns remaining. In addition, the Counselor to the Secretary of HHS has been briefed on these recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations will require revising and updating the Mandatory Guidelines to adopt the DTAB's two recommendations.

The draft proposed revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines will be published in the Federal Register for public comment and subsequently routed to other Federal agencies for their review and to HHS and the Office of Management and Budget for their approval.

RECOMMENDATION
I recommend that you approve the DTAB's two recommendations and direct that SAMHSA implement the recommendations through revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs.

Frances M. Harding

DECISION

Approved ✓ Disapproved _____ Date JAN 26 2012

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration