The Integrated Delivery System
of San Francisco's
Department of Public Health

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To: Chiefs of Service, Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nurses and Other Concerned Personnel

From: Kara Lynch, PhD, DABCC
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Re: Expanded menu for urine toxicology testing: 6-monoacetylmorphine, Buprenorphine, Propoxyphene

Effective September 15, 2010, the Clinical Laboratory will be offering three new toxicology tests in-house.

The first new test is an immunoassay for 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM). 6-MAM is a heroin specific metabolite that can be detected in urine for 12-24 hours after heroin use. A positive 6-monoacetylmorphine test indicates recent heroin use. A negative result does not exclude heroin use. The 6-MAM immunoassay will be added to all urine drug screens ordered from the Emergency Department. This test can be ordered as an individual test from any other location, if clinically indicated.

The second new test is an immunoassay for buprenorphine. Buprenorphine is a semi-synthetic opioid that is used to treat opioid addiction. This assay can be used for monitoring buprenorphine treatment and can be ordered from any location.

The third new test is an immunoassay for propoxyphene. Propoxyphene is a medication used for the management of mild to moderate pain. This drug has abuse potential. This assay can be used for monitoring treatment and/or abuse, and can be ordered from any location.

For more information on these new assays, please refer to the SFGH Clinical Laboratory Manual website (http://labmed.ucsf.edu/sfghlab/).

For any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Lynch at 206-5477.