



A Clarian Health Partner

Health & Productivity Management Workforce Tip November 2008

“Can you email it to me?”

Whenever somebody wants to fax a document to me I invariably answer with this question, “Can you email it to me?” As technology continues to advance, most of us like to take advantage of those particular technologies that enhance our ability to communicate and help us to be more efficient in accomplishing what needs to be accomplished. I think about things like direct deposit with my paycheck and how having a mortgage or car payment automatically withdrawn from the bank account makes things easier for my wife and myself. Once the accounts are set up, payments happen on their own with virtually no oversight. In other words, the process is simplified, it’s automatic.

Just as technology helps us in our personal and professional lives, it is also taking drug screen reporting to the next level of automated efficiency, and that makes all of our jobs a little easier. Drug screen reports can now be accessed via a secure, password protected web reporting system. Below is a list of key benefits if your company chooses to adopt this type of system:

1. Email notification that results are available online (often in as little as 15 minutes)
2. Secure, 24 hour access to results from any computer with internet access
3. Status of drug screen is always available online if results are non-negative
4. Quickly return employees to work (post-accident) once negative results are reported
5. Eliminates faxing or calling of results
6. Generate and print individual, periodic and annual reports directly from your computer
7. Securely store all results in electronic format
8. Specify permissions for other company representatives to access results

All of the benefits listed above should be a free service of the occupational health clinic you are currently utilizing and should not affect the price you are paying for drug screens.

Whether your company is newly developing a drug screening program or you have required drug screening for many years, you will want to consider receiving those results via electronic web reporting. Fewer follow-up phone calls, fewer trips to the fax machine and instant access to information are good things that can help us all, not to mention that current and historic screening records are always just a click away.

Have you thought about switching over to a rapid drug screen instead of a standard collection? Here are two helpful hints. First, it should be cheaper for your company to conduct rapid testing. Second, if your company requires a pre-employment drug screen AND a pre-employment physical exam, consider using a rapid drug screen and have your applicant wait 15 minutes to see if it can be confirmed negative right away in the clinic. If so, then go ahead with the physical exam. However, if the drug test needs to be sent to the lab for GC/MS testing, leave a standing order with the clinic staff to dismiss the applicant. This way you can send the applicant back for their physical exam when (hopefully) the drug test is confirmed negative. If it ends up being a positive drug test, you will have only paid for the drug test, not the drug test AND physical exam.

If you would like to inquire about rapid drug screens and/or having your drug screens reported electronically, please contact Dan Todd at 219-851-3827 or email d.todd@lph.org.