



HAIR TESTING PROTOCOL To monitor drugs of abuse

This protocol has been developed to inform registrants of the Board's expectations and to ensure standardisation in the operation of the Program.

Preamble:

1. The Board's Hair Testing protocol applies (but is not limited) to the following situations:
 - to ensure compliance with treatment regimes.
 - to ensure ongoing abstinence from prohibited substances.
 - when registrants re-apply for registration after a period of cancellation due to disciplinary proceedings.
2. A Registrant is required to attend for such testing for one of three reasons:
 - An undertaking has been entered into between the Board and the registrant;
 - A condition to do so has been imposed on his/her registration; or
 - An order to do so has been imposed.
3. The Board's primary responsibility is the protection of "vulnerable persons." This includes the public and the registrant.
4. Non-compliance with the protocol may result in disciplinary action against the registrant.

Requirements:

The hair sample, ideally, is to be taken from the nape (back of head) as this hair has the most regular growth pattern.

The registrant must keep the hair to be sampled no less than 4 cm long. The collector will cut an approximately pencil-thickness section of hair as close to the scalp as possible.

The registrant should not use chemical treatments on the hair, for example perming, dying or bleaching. The registrant is to refrain from the use of chemical treatments to allow for sufficient new growth of hair to enable a sample to be taken.

The registrant's hair must be free of all gels, oils and hair creams when presenting for collection.

The registrant must not self-refer for testing under any circumstances.

The registrant is responsible for meeting all the costs associated with the testing.

The procedure:

The registrant will be contacted by phone and written correspondence will be issued when a sample is required.

Initially the registrant will be contacted to ascertain which Queensland Medical Laboratories (QML) he/she wishes to attend, so the Board can make the necessary arrangements with collection staff.



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The registrant will then be provided the following written correspondence:

- a. A letter from the Board for the registrant to provide to QML, including instructions for the collection of the hair specimen; and
- b. A QML Occupational Pathology request form. When presenting for a test, it is the registrant's responsibility to write that day's date on the form

The registrant is to attend the QML collection centre that has been agreed upon within 5 days of receiving the Board's correspondence.

Results are sent to the Board for monitoring purposes. Any discrepancies will be drawn to the registrant's attention and a written explanation will be required before the Board considers what action it will take.

Copies of results will be forwarded to the registrant's treating psychiatrist and/or other treating health practitioners, as deemed appropriate by the Board. If a registrant requires copies of their results, the registrant should advise the HAM Unit in writing so that arrangements may be made for copies to be forwarded.