



# Drugs of abuse in hair testing

Testing for drugs of abuse in hair complements the rapidly expanding suite of drug testing services offered by LGC





Science for a Safer World





# Why test

LGC provides an ISO17025:2017 accredited analytical testing service for the detection of drugs of abuse in human hair. This high-precision offering provides a reliable testing solution to detect drug misuse.

Hair is an ideal matrix for providing a true insight into an individual's lifestyle choices.

Assessment of drug use in a workplace environment can be used for pre-employment checks, for-cause testing or just for routine welfare testing of your workforce. Reliable and effective testing enables you to have confidence in your employees, make informed decisions, and provide appropriate support to your employees when and if required.

Additionally, hair analysis in a medical-legal environment, can assist with drug rehabilitation programmes and aiding court decisions.

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# Confidence in results



Hair samples undergo screening analysis followed by confirmatory analysis (if required).

During screening, the presence or absence of drugs and their metabolites is determined. Any sample that yields a presumptive positive result then undergoes confirmatory analysis.

Presumptive positives undergo a rigorous confirmatory procedure to ensure that all reported positive results are both accurate and scientifically defensible, supporting fair and informed decision-making in workplace or legal contexts.

As part of this stage, the hair is chemically washed\* to eliminate external contamination i.e. drugs that may have been deposited onto the surface of the hair due to environmental or passive exposure. This washing step is critical, as it helps distinguish between external contamination and actual drug incorporation into the hair shaft, which occurs when a substance is ingested and metabolised by the body.

After washing, the hair is analysed to determine both the identity and concentration of any drugs or their metabolites. This analysis provides definitive evidence of drug use or exposure.

For workplace applications the thresholds specified by the Society of Hair Testing (SoHT)/ European Workplace Drug Testing Society (EWDTs) guidelines are used. These thresholds are indicative of chronic usage or exposure, providing critical insights for accurate interpretation of results.

\*the results from hair washings can be supplied upon request and are often used for medical-legal applications

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## COVERAGE

Testing is available for all the drug-classes that are typically abused. Programmes can be tailored to cover the common recreational drugs of choice (ideal for workplace applications) and/or to include additional often misused prescribed medicines (more suited for medical-legal applications).

Drug classes include:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Benzodiazepines
- Z-drugs
- LSD
- Opiates/opioids (e.g. morphine, fentanyl, tramadol etc)



# A platinum-level testing service as standard

Customers will receive a first-class experience.

All testing is conducted in the UK at our world-class facilities located in Fordham, Cambridgeshire. All methodologies have undergone rigorous validation and are ISO/IEC17025:2017 compliant (accredited by UKAS). By ensuring we meet the highest standards of quality and compliance you can be confident in the accuracy and reliability of every result.

Testing utilises advanced LC-MS analysis techniques, ensuring unequivocal identification with 100% accuracy which provides you with complete peace of mind. All data generated is of legally defensible quality and thoroughly reviewed by our team of expert scientists. Results are typically available within five working days from the date of receipt at the laboratory.

## **COLLECTION**

LGC supply hair collection kits with clear step-by-step instructions. Kits are tamper-evident and samples can be stored and transported at ambient temperature using standard postal

services. Paperwork is quick and simple to complete and includes all necessary consent acknowledgements.

## **TESTING TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS**

We recognise that every customer is different and therefore offer fully customisable testing programmes, let our experts discuss your exact requirements with you. Drugs of abuse testing can be undertaken as a standalone service or in conjunction with an alcohol in hair testing option.

**All data generated is of legally defensible quality and thoroughly reviewed by our team of expert scientists.**



# Other services



We also offer additional accredited testing services\*, including:

- Alcohol in human hair testing (Medical and Legal Analysis and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Systematic toxicology analysis (STA) in human blood and urine. Includes new psychoactive substance (NPS) and related substances testing in human blood and urine (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Analysis for Coroner Medical Investigation, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Anabolic steroid analysis in human urine (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Analysis for Coroner Medical Investigation, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Drugs of abuse in human fingerprints (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Confirmatory analysis for drugs of abuse in human urine (Workplace Drug Analysis)

\*UKAS laboratory ref: 1187, [www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com)



# LGC – The laboratory you can trust

We are a global leader in life science tools. Partnering with customers to find solutions that diagnose, treat, feed and protect our growing population. Working collaboratively with our partners in the scientific community, our products and services help to solve some of the most complex challenges facing society.

LGC, headquartered in the UK, boasts a heritage of over 180 years. The Cambridgeshire laboratory has been operational since 1963 and is internationally recognised for its expertise in equine drug surveillance. Today, with a team of more than 100 highly skilled scientists, this laboratory leads the field in equine sports testing, human drug

testing and nutritional supplement testing. We employ industry-leading experts who are driving innovation and compliance across all areas. Their work is pivotal in ensuring that integrity, fairness and safety is maintained.

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## Get in touch

For further information on any testing services,  
or to discuss bespoke requirements, please  
contact us at **[info@lgcgroup.com](mailto:info@lgcgroup.com)**,  
quoting SSAS in the subject line.