

Proficiency Testing Program for Alcohol and Drugs in Oral Fluid



RTI International's Center for Forensic Sciences (CFS), an established provider of proficiency testing (PT) services, offers an international oral fluid PT program. Oral fluid as a testing matrix is increasingly becoming the standard in criminal justice, clinical, and workplace drug-testing venues. As such, proficiency in testing oral fluid samples will continue to grow in importance for judicial and administrative processes, and laboratories testing such samples will be under increasing pressure to ensure the accuracy of their results.

CFS Offers Proven Proficiency Testing Services

CFS has long been a reliable source of PT samples for forensic and research laboratories and has served as an important part of the quality assurance programs and certification efforts of many analytical facilities. We have supplied drug-fortified urine samples to private programs and to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) for over 25 years. In 2001, we began preparing open PT oral fluid samples for a PT pilot program conducted by the NLCP. The integrity of these samples has been well documented over the years at meetings of the Department of Health and Human Services' Drug Testing Advisory Board and through presentations at scientific meetings.

The oral fluid PT samples offered by CFS contain alcohol and a comprehensive list of commonly abused illegal and prescription drugs (see list on following page). All samples are provided as "neat" oral fluid to ensure compatibility with diverse collection devices and to facilitate analysis.

Concentrations of measurands in the oral fluid are calibrated to effectively challenge the ability of a facility's screening procedures to detect the drugs. The materials also include concentrations of measurands sufficient to accurately assess the confirmation procedures a laboratory has in place.

CFS guarantees the quality of its samples and offers a quick turnaround of proficiency results. All samples are prepared in synthetic oral fluid to eliminate any biohazard risks. Participating laboratories will receive frozen PT samples by courier in three shipments (five samples each) over a 12-month period. Laboratories are allowed 2 weeks after receiving the samples to submit their results. Once CFS has received all results, we will provide, within 2 weeks, a detailed proficiency report that contains the information necessary for a laboratory to compare its performance quantitatively through group statistics.

The cost for three PT sample sets per year per laboratory is US \$1,500.

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Advantages of CFS's Oral Fluid Proficiency Testing Service

- CFS has provided oral fluid PT samples for 12 years.
- CFS is an established organization with a 34-year history of providing drug-fortified PT samples to private and government laboratories.
- CFS oral fluid PT samples include alcohol and a range of commonly abused drugs for which testing is most likely to be requested.
- CFS offers a quick 2-week turnaround time for proficiency results.
- CFS offers a competitive price for its services (US \$1,500 covers three PT sample sets per year).

More Information

Amy Evans
Forensic Scientist, Center for Forensic Sciences
919.316.3963
aevans@rti.org
RTI International
3040 E. Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

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Oral Fluid PT Samples Will Contain the Following:

6-acetylmorphine	diazepam	morphine
alprazolam	ethanol	nordiazepam
amphetamine	hydrocodone	oxazepam
barbiturates	hydromorphone	oxycodone
benzoylecgonine	lorazepam	oxymorphone
buprenorphine	MDA	phencyclidine
clonazepam	MDMA	temazepam
cocaine	methadone	tetrahydrocannabinol
codeine	methamphetamine	tramadol
		zolpidem



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