

**Introduction**

This test looks for the presence of drugs of abuse. Please check the abbreviated code that is printed on the test foil and the test itself (i.e. COC, MET, COT or MOP) and then refer to the table overleaf where you will find the proper drug names, street names and the test cut-off level.

**Drugs in the workplace**

Drugs can affect the brain and the body in a number of ways and this may affect the employee's performance at work even if the misuse takes place outside the place of work. As an employer you have a duty to ensure as far as reasonably possible that your employees are not a danger to other employees or the general public by consuming drugs of abuse.

**Legalities**

If you are an employer wanting to test staff for drugs of abuse it is important that you have a policy in place, warning staff that they may be subject to random drug tests and that the use of drugs in the workplace or being under the influence of drugs in the workplace is a dismissible offence. It is also important that you keep up to date on the latest government legislation.

If one of your employees has a drug problem you should make every effort to help them, and encourage them to seek professional help. If drug abuse is a common problem in your work place it may be in your interest to begin a drug awareness programme for staff and managers.

**Materials Provided**

- Foil pouch containing drug test
- Full Instructions
- Buffer (1.0mL brown cap)
- Specimen Collection Tube with Catalyst Powder (5mg green cap)
- Collection Paper
- Template Card

**Materials Required But Not Provided**

Timer  
Scissors

**When should I do the test?**

This test can be done at any time.

**Precautions**

1. This test is for external use only.
2. Do not use this test beyond the expiry date on the foil pouch.
3. Do not use this test if the foil pouch has been opened.
4. Due to the sensitive nature of this drugs test, you must be careful when carrying out the test to avoid contamination and thus inaccurate test results, so make sure your hands and the scissors are clean prior to collecting the sample.
5. Please read these instructions carefully before beginning the test.

**Storage**

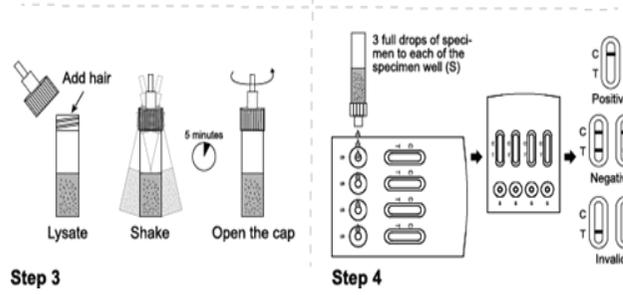
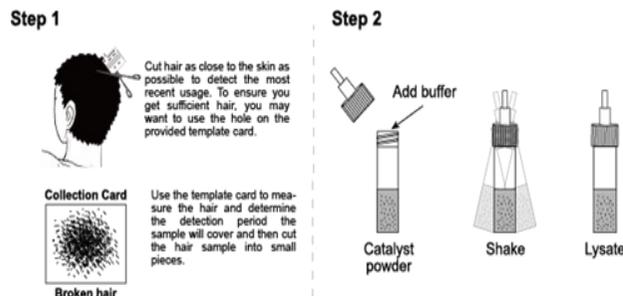
This test should be stored between 2-30°C (36-86°F), do not freeze. Bring the test kit to room temperature before performing the test.

**Specimen Collection**

Select a long thin strip of hair close to the centre of the head. To ensure you get sufficient hair, you may feed it through the hole on the provided template card. You can use a hair clip to hold back some overlying hair to ensure the specimen taken doesn't show up as an obvious patch. You should cut the hair as close as possible to the scalp as this area will reveal the most recent drug use. Hair grows at the rate of 1.3cms per month (1/2 inch) so to check for drug use over the last 90 days a length of 4cms (1 and a half inches) is needed. Use the template card to measure the hair and determine the detection period the sample will cover. For example, if you want to cover the usage from the last 60 days, you should cut the hair into a 1 inch length from the root end. Then cut the hair sample into small pieces, and lay the broken hair on the provided collection paper.

**Test Procedure**

1. Add the buffer to the Specimen Collection Tube with Catalyst Powder and shake it evenly to prepare the lysate.
2. Add the hair sample to the prepared hair lysate, tighten the cap onto the specimen collection tube, then shake the tube vigorously to mix the specimen and the lysate. Leave the tube alone for 5 minutes.
3. Remove the test cassette from the sealed pouch and use it within one hour. Place the test cassette on a clean and level surface.
4. Remove the clear cap of the specimen collection tube and transfer 3 full drops of specimen (Lysate) (approx. 120 mL) to the specimen well (S) of the test cassette, and then start the timer. Avoid trapping air bubbles in the specimen well (S). For multi-panels, you need to add 3 drops of lysate to each specimen well.
5. Wait for the coloured line(s) to appear. Read results at 5 minutes. Do not interpret the result after 10 minutes.



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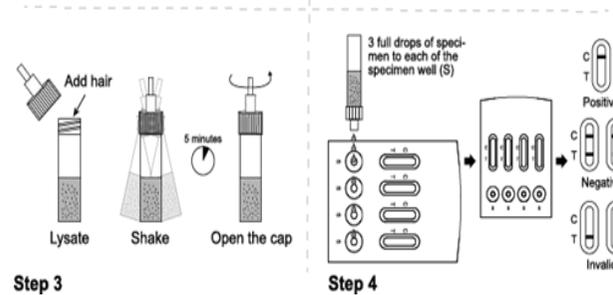
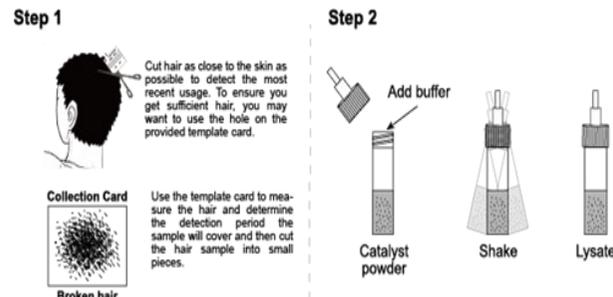
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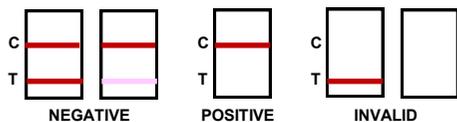
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**Results**

Read the results of each strip individually and independent of each other .  
When looking at the test you will see a pink/red coloured line at the top of the test window. This is the Control Line (C). The next line that may or may not appear below the control is called the Test Line (T).



The control line (C), has to show as this confirms that the test has worked properly. If no control line appears the test hasn't worked properly and you may need to do a further test.

A second pink/red coloured line below the control line, no matter how faint, should now appear. This is a negative result. If no further line appears below the control line then the individual has tested positive for that drug of abuse.

**\*\*\*The colour intensity of the test band (T) is irrelevant; ANY second line (even a faint one) indicates a negative result\*\*\***

Use the drugs table below to work out which drug the abbreviated code corresponds to. For example, the code "COC" indicates Cocaine. Please note that the drug test you have bought may not test for all the drugs listed in the table below; you need to check the code(s) on the test to see which of the drugs your test will detect.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
**What should I do with the results?**

If you obtain a negative result then the person tested has none of the tested drugs of abuse in their body at this time. You may want to re-test again in a month's time.  
If you obtain a positive result on one of the drug tests then a drug of abuse has been detected in the hair.

**How fast does head hair grow?**

Studies indicate that head hair grows on average approximately 1.3 cm (or 1/2 inch) per month. This growth rate varies slightly (estimated at ± .3 cm per month), from person to person.

**How soon after use can a drug be detected in hair?**

It takes approximately 4-5 days from the time of drug use for the affected hair to grow above the scalp. If usage of drugs in a shorter time frame is required then a urine and/or saliva drug test should be used. Full details are on our website ([www.homehealth-uk.com](http://www.homehealth-uk.com)).

**DRUGS TABLE**

Abbreviated name on test	Drug test Cut-off (ng/mL)	Proper name	Other names
AMP	0.2	AMPHETAMINES	SPEED, AMPH or WHIZZ
COC	0.5	COCAINE	COKE, CRACK or CHARLIE
MET	0.2	METHAMPHETAMINES	ICE, GLASS or METH
MOP/MOR	0.2	MORPHINE	OPIATES

**Can tests be run on people with little or no hair?**

Hair can be collected from several head locations and combined to obtain the required amount of hair. In addition, body hair may be used as a substitute to head hair, but please note that if body hair is used the timeframe represented by the test can be a year or more, due to the different growth pattern in hair below the neck. In the rare case where no hair is collectable, a urine and/or oral drug test can be used. Full details are on our website.

**Can hair collected from a brush be used?**

Yes, but you still need to make sure you get a sufficient volume of hair. It is also important to note that you will be unable to approximate the period of time covered by the test and if more than 1 person uses the hair brush, the results may not be reliable.

**If I get a negative result, does this mean that the person tested has not taken the drug?**

Not necessarily. The amount of hair collected might not have been sufficient to detect usage, or the amount of drugs present might have been below the cut-off. It is important to understand that this test is designed to pick up repeated drug use; it is not likely to pick up occasional use.

**What if I have still have any questions?**

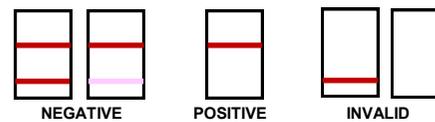
Please contact us by email on:

[info@homehealth-uk.com](mailto:info@homehealth-uk.com)

We normally respond within 24 hours but if your question is urgent you can ring us on 01923 711511.

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