



BCCS CLIENT UPDATE

Oral Swabs for Drug Screens

Oral swab drug screens are allowed instead of urine drug screens (UDS) for most BCCS clients even if the client does not have an approved UDS exception.¹

Oral Swab without an Approved UDS Exception:

If you don't submit documentation for an approved UDS exception to use oral swabs you can still use oral swabs drug screens instead of UDS.

If you're receiving more than 6 take-home bottles, you'll only get 6 take-home bottles until the oral swab results are received from the laboratory and reviewed.

You'll need to wait for 10 minutes before the oral swab sample collection. You can't eat or drink or leave the building during the 10 minutes. If you do, it's considered an unable to obtain (UTO) drug screen. If you want, you can choose to give a urine sample instead during the 10 minute wait time.

Oral swabs are more likely than UDS of producing a false negative (incorrect) result for the methadone metabolite EDDP. If your oral swab results are negative for EDDP, you'll be asked to provide an observed urine sample for UDS. If you were receiving more than 6 take-home bottles, you'll continue to only get 6 take-home bottles until the UDS results are received from the laboratory and reviewed.

If you don't provide the requested UDS it's considered a UTO drug screen and the negative EDDP result from the oral swab is considered accurate.

If you're getting 14 or 28 take-home bottles, you can submit up to 4 oral swabs in a rolling year. If you're receiving 6 or less take-home bottles, you can submit up to 6 oral swabs in a rolling year. Once you've reached your maximum number of oral swabs, you'll need to give urine samples for any remaining drug screens in the rolling year. If you don't provide a UDS when requested during the rest of the rolling year it's considered a UTO drug screen.

Oral Swab with an Approved UDS Exception:

To receive an approved UDS exception to give oral swab drug screens you need to submit documentation from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant identifying a medical condition (or from a psychiatric practitioner identifying a psychological condition) that keeps you from providing a urine specimen.

The letter must include your diagnosis and the reason you cannot give a urine sample, including if not being able to give a urine sample is only if you're urinating while observed. You'll also need to

sign a release of information for the outside provider submitting the documentation. If you change outside providers, a new letter and a new release of information may be needed.

Once your UDS exception is approved, you can submit oral swabs for drug screens and there is no change to the number of take-home bottles you receive when you submit an oral swab. There's no limit to the number of oral swabs you can submit.

You'll need to wait for 10 minutes before the oral swab sample collection. You can't eat or drink or leave the building during the 10 minutes. If you do, it's considered an unable to obtain (UTO) drug screen.

¹ If you are in a Criminal Justice Program, if you are required under court order or as a condition of probation to give a urine specimen, or if a provider requires a UDS, you may not submit oral swabs and will need to provide a urine specimen. New BCCS OTP clients are also expected to provide a urine specimen at intake.