Accidents and Injuries
» Jan – Construction Companies that Drug Test Have Lower Injury Rates
» Jan – Most Drivers Killed in Accidents Test Positive for Drugs or Alcohol
» Feb – Man Leaps from Second Story to Avoid Drug Test
» Apr – Approach for Evaluating Drug-Related Fitness for Duty
» May/June – Drug Abusing Worker Charged with Causing Philadelphia Building Collapse

Adulteration, Dilution, and Substitution
» Jan – Diuretic Did Not Cause Substituted Result (LA)
» Feb – Specimen Dilution Leads to Lower Positive Rates
» Feb – Drug-Abusing Pilot Arrested
» Oct/Nov – Zinc – An Effective Adulterant if Added, Not Ingested
» Oct/Nov – A Screening Test for Zinc; More Data on Zinc’s Effectiveness
» Oct/Nov – Urine Dilution Reduces Yield of Positives

Alcohol
» Apr – Positive Breath Alcohol Results from Purell
» Apr – DUI Attributed to Acid Reflux
» May – NTSB – Safety Agency Proposes 0.05% BAC for DUI
» Aug – EtG-Positive Hair Tests and Hair-Care Products
» Sept – Smartphone Breathalyzers
» Oct/Nov – Non-DOT Breath Alcohol Testing is Illegal (MD)
» Oct/Nov – Positive Alcohol Tests Caused by GI Yeast

Amphetamines
» Mar – Bath Salts Can Interfere with Amphetamines Confirmation
» Apr – Correction Regarding “Bath Salts Can Interfere With Amphetamines Confirmation
» Dec – Epidemic of ADD Among Professional Baseball Players

Cocaine
» Apr – Distinguishing Between Coca Chewing and Cocaine
» Aug – Americans Just Say No to Cocaine
» Aug – Cocaine Tea Explanation Rejected (TX)
» Oct/Nov – Rats Prefer Oreos Over Cocaine

Collection
» Aug – Electronic CCF on Its Way

Confidentiality
» Jan – Follow-up Drug Test is Not Part of Treatment (TN)

Department of Transportation (DOT)
» Feb – Proposed Rule for Drug, Alcohol Clearinghouse (FMCSA)
» Mar – OTC Meds Added to Railroad Post-Accident Testing (FRA)
» Apr – Proposed Rule is Coming for National Drug Test Database (FMCSA)

Disabilities
» Jan – Firing for Prescription Use Brings Disability Claim (GA)
» Feb – A Risk of Relapse Can Be a Disability. (MA)
» Aug – Suspension for Alcohol Use Did Not Violate ADA (NY)
» Oct/Nov – No ADA Job Protection for Current Drug Abuser (TX)
» Dec – Firing Driver for Alcohol Abuse Doesn’t Violate ADA (NJ)
» Dec – Firing for Positive Result Doesn’t Violate ADA (TN)

DOT Physicals
» Feb – FMCSA – Exemptions for Drivers With Epilepsy, Hearing Loss
» Mar – Reminder: Certification to Conduct DOT Physicals
» Sept – Caution Against Driving After Taking Ambien-CR

Drug Abuse Trends
» Jan – Institute of Medicine Calls Substance Abuse in U.S. Military a “Public Health Crisis”
» Mar – Drug Overdose Deaths Up for 11th Consecutive Year
» Sept – Regular Marijuana Use on the Rise
» Dec – PCP- and MDMA-Related ED Visits Rose Between 2005 and 2011

Drug Testing Trends
» Mar – Overall Drug-Testing Positive Rate Remains 3.5 Percent
» Mar – An iScreen in Your Pocket?
» May/June – Drug Testing of Taxi and Limousine Drivers (AZ)
» May/June – Drug Testing Doctors? (CA)
» May/June – Drug Testing of Ice Fishermen
» Aug – Nearly 80% of Employers Drug Test
» Sept – Drug Testing of College Students Unconstitutional
» Oct/Nov – Blacks and Hispanics Are Drug Tested More Often
» Dec – Overall Positive Rate Remains 3.5 Percent
» Dec – Army Reports 1 Percent Positive Rate

Hair Testing
» May/June – Hair Tests Do Not Distinguish Between Cocaine Use and Passive Exposure (MA)
» July – Hair Tests and Environmental Contamination
» Oct/Nov – (Latest) Bill to Require Workplace Hair Testing (Congress)

Heroin
» Apr – 6-AM Means Heroin
» Aug – Heroin Makes a Rural Comeback
» Sept – In Vitro 6-AM Formation from Morphine and Aspirin
Hydrocodone
» Feb – FDA - Vicodin a Step Closer to Schedule II

Laboratories
» July – NLCP Notices – Split Specimens; Insufficient Volume
» Oct/Nov – Lab Owes Duty to Donor (NY)
» Oct/Nov – Case Report of False-Positive Ketamine Screen

Marijuana and Synthetic Cannabinoids
» Jan – SAMHSA – Marijuana Use Still Prohibited, Despite State Laws
» Jan – Marijuana Doesn’t Directly Reduce Pain, But Does Make it More Tolerable
» Jan – Recent Marijuana Use Impairs Driving
» Jan – California Drivers Use as Much Marijuana as Alcohol
» Feb – AL, MD, NH, OK – Medical Marijuana Bills With Job Protection
» Feb - National Safety Council Says Marijuana Use Makes Driving Unsafe
» Feb – Federal Court Refuses to Reschedule Marijuana (DC)
» Feb – Employer Sued for Firing Medical Marijuana User (ME)
» Mar – Marijuana Legalization Violates U.N. Treaties
» Mar – Heavy Marijuana Users Have Positive Blood Tests for Up to a Month
» Apr – Employers May Still Ban Marijuana Use (CO)
» Apr – Legislation Passes Medical Marijuana Bill (MD)
» Apr – Most Employers Take No Policy on Medical Marijuana
» May/June – DUI Limit of 5 ng/mL THC in Blood (CO, WA)
» May/June – Court Supports Firing if Medical Marijuana User (CO)
» May/June – Insurer Need Not Pay for Medical Marijuana (NM)
» July – Court Upholds Firing of Medical Marijuana User (CA)
» July – Marijuana Users Switch to Spice to Pass Drug Tests
» Aug – 20th State to Legalize Medical Marijuana (IL)
» Aug – Does Living with a Medical Marijuana User Explain a Positive Result?
» Sept – Federal Government Won’t Block State Marijuana Laws
» Sept – Employer Can Fire Medical Marijuana User (CO)
» Sept – Marijuana Smokers Release THC From Fat While Exercising
» Sept – Positive Drug Tests from Blueberry Yogurt?
» Oct/Nov – Portland Voters OK Recreational Marijuana (ME)
» Oct/Nov – Support for Marijuana Legalization at All-Time High
» Dec – AMA Reaffirms Opposition to Marijuana Legalization
» Dec – Uruguay Legalizes Marijuana

Medical Review Officers
» Feb – Court Dismisses Trucker’s Lawsuit Against MRO (PA)
» Sept – MRO Audits
» Oct/Nov – Case Lost Because MRO Didn’t Testify (PA)

Meperidine
» Feb – Absence of Metabolite Casts Doubt on Meperidine-Positive Result

Opioids
» July – Mom Settles Suit Over Poppy Seed Drug Tests
» Sept – Stronger Warnings for Extended Release Opioids

Oral Fluid
» Jan – Court Prefers Oral Fluid Over Urine (Australia)
» Mar – Vinegar as Cause of Screen-Positive Oral Fluid Tests

Pain Patient Testing
» Jan – New SAMHSA Manual About Testing Patients for Substance Abuse Disorders
» Apr – Three-Thirds of Prescription Drug Monitoring Tests Inconsistent
» Dec – ACP Urges Caution in Drug Testing Pain Patients

Prescription Drugs
» Jan – Prescription Drug Abuse Decreasing in Some States

Random Testing
» Jan – Marines - New Random Alcohol Testing Program
» Jan – Random Testing of Oil Workers Not Justified (Alberta, CA)
» Mar – Production Plant Wins Challenge to Random Alcohol Testing (PA)
» May/June – Appeals Court Allows Random Tests of Safety-Sensitive State Workers (FL)

Refusal to Test
» Dec – Fired for Refusal to Test

School Drug Testing
» Feb – College Can Drug Test Students (MO)
» Mar – Middle-School Testing Discourages Alcohol Abuse in High School
» Apr – College Ordered to Stop Testing Students (MO)

Welfare Drug Testing
» Mar – Appeals Court Rules Welfare Drug Testing Unconstitutional (FL)

Worker’s Compensation/Unemployment Benefits
» Mar – Benefits Awarded Despite Marijuana-Positive Post-Accident Test (KY)
» Apr – Workers’ Comp Covers Addiction to Prescribed Pain Meds (FL)
» Oct/Nov – Fail Pre-employment Drug Test, Lose Unemployment Benefits (MI)

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