Adulteration and Substitution
- Feb – Donor Becomes Psychotic After Using Drug Detox Kit
- March/April – One in Six Surgeons Have Alcohol Problems
- May – Dilute Urine Associated with Low Weight, High Metabolic Rate
- Nov – Water Loading Study Reports >10% Dilute Rate
- Dec – Alcohol Touchpads Coming to Cars

Drug Testing Trends
- March/April – Florida - Drug Testing of State Workers
- May – State Worker Drug Testing Law Ruled Unconstitutional (FL)
- May – Union Agreement Does Not Bar Use of Last-Chance Agreement (TX)
- Nov – Air Testing for Drugs
- Nov – Court Says Drug Testing Policy is Not a Contract (TN)

Alcohol
- July/Aug – SAMHSA Updates Alcohol Biomarker Advisory
- Sept – Study Reconfirms Need to Wait 15 Minutes Between Alcohol Tests
- Sept – Worker Claims Seizure Stopped Him from Finishing Breath Test
- Nov – Random Testing of Alcoholic Was Discriminatory (NJ)
- Dec – Alcohol Touchpads Coming to Cars
- Dec – Drunk Driver Mistakes Breathalyzer for iPhone

Hair Testing
- Jan – Hair Test Reasonable for Employee with Kidney Failure (TX)
- March/April – Hair Test May be Grounds for Denying Benefits (WI)
- June – Cocaine-Positive Hair from Passive Exposure
- June – Methamphetamine-Positive Hair in Children from Passive Exposure
- Sept – Melanin Affects Methamphetamine Incorporation in Human Hair
- Oct – Court Rejects Racial Bias Claim Against Hair Drug Tests (MA)
- Dec – Distinguishing Tramadol Use from Contamination

Amphetamines
- March/April – No Effect on Driving from One Dose of d-Methamphetamine
- Oct – False-Positive Amphetamines Screens from Fenofibrate
- Sept – Urine Amphetamine Concentrations
- Sept – Methamphetamine Use Impairs Driving Skills

Hydrocodone
- Jan – Stronger Hydrocodone Products Coming to Market
- Jan – Vicodin-Abusing Police Officer Loses Job (IL)

Cocaine
- March/April – Cocaine-Positive Rate Up by 33% After Cutoffs Lowered
- Oct – Trucker Blames Cocaine-Positive Result on Dentist (NV)

Laboratories
- July/Aug – LabCorp Buys MedTox
- Oct – Lab Worker Falsifies Drug Test Results

Cannabinoids
- Jan – Low to Moderate Marijuana Use Doesn’t Impair Lung Function
- Feb – Truckers Can’t Use Medical Marijuana
- March/April – Baby Soaps Can Cause Positive Marijuana Screens
- March/April – DEA - Renewed Ban on Spice and K2
- March/April – Employee Loses Challenge Over Marijuana Cutoff Level
- March/April – Marijuana Use Doubles Crash Risk
- June – ADA Does Not Protect Medical Marijuana Use (CA)
- June – Bath Salts and Spice are Moving Targets
- June – Connecticut Legalizes Medical Marijuana, Protects Employees
- July/Aug – Dronabinol Impairs Driving Skills
- July/Aug – Israeli Firm Grows No-High Marijuana
- Sept – Arkansas and Massachusetts to Vote on Medical Marijuana
- Sept – Marijuana Cutoff of 5 ng/mL Increases Positives by 25%
- Oct – Colorado, Oregon, Washington - Voters May Legalize Recreational Marijuana
- Oct – Donor Blames Marijuana Result on Hepatitis and Paxil (FRA)
- Oct – HIV-Positive Applicant Failed to Corroborate Use of Marinol (AZ)
- Oct – Medical Marijuana User Reinstated After Testing Positive (CA)
- Oct – Wal-Mart Worker Loses Medical Marijuana Appeal (MI)
» Nov – Colorado, Washington - Two States Legalize Recreational Marijuana
» Nov – Arkansas Rejects Medical Marijuana
» Nov – Massachusetts Legalizes Medical Marijuana
» Nov – Montana Limits Medical Marijuana
» Dec – DOT - Marijuana Use Still Prohibited, Despite State Laws
» Dec – Medical Marijuana Not Disqualifying From Being a Dad (CA)
» Dec – Pro-Marijuana’s Approach to Legalization

Medical Review Officers
» Jan – Concentration Can be Disclosed to Employer (GA)
» Feb – DOT Advisory Issued Regarding Medical Review Officers Contacting Treating Physicians
» Feb – Fake MRO Pleads Guilty (VT)
» March/April – MRO Acted Appropriately (AL)
» May – Prescription Verification
» July/Aug – One-Third of Prescription Opioid Deaths Caused by Methadone
» Sept – Tapentadol Can Cause False-Positive Methadone Screens

Opioids
» Jan – Prescription Opioids Are Larger Share of Workers Compensation Costs
» Jan – Prescription Opioids Overdoses at Epidemic Levels
» Jan – Recalled OTC Drugs May Contain Opioids
» Jan – Drug Testing Matters - Focus on Opioids
» Feb – Fewer Opioid-Related Deaths After State Issues Interpretation Skills
» March/April – Oxycodeone and Hydrocodeone Sales Spike Over Last Decade
» March/April – Rise in Opana (Oxymorphone) Abuse
» May – Codeine-Positive, Morphine-Negative Results from Poppy Seeds
» May – DOT - Less Scrutiny of 6-AM Positive/Morphine-Negative Results
» June – Drug Abusing Hospital Worker Suspected in Hepatitis C Outbreak
» June – Senate Investigates Financial Ties Between Opioid Makers and Medical Groups
» July/Aug – Doctors Accused of Murder by Overprescribing
» July/Aug – Dog X-Ray Dupes Doctor in Drug Sting
» Sept – Codeine As a Contaminant of Heroin
» Sept – Propoxyphene Still Around Two Years After Removal from Market
» Oct – DOT - Permanent Change to Handling of 6-AM Positive/Morphine-Negative Results
» Oct – Illicit Drug Use Correlated With Not Taking Prescribed Opioids
» Nov – Doctors Pressured to Prescribe Opioids
» Nov – Drug Tests Show Less Propoxyphene in Use
» Dec – Suboxone Sales Surge

Pain Patient Testing
» March/April – Profit-Driven Testing of Pain Patients
» June – Court Says Urine Tests Can’t Measure Dose or Timing of Drug (MD)
» Oct – Kentucky - Mandatory Drug Testing of Patients on Chronic Pain Meds
» Dec – Millennium Laboratories Under Investigation for Alleged Fraud

Postaccident Testing
» Sept – Test Negated by Failure to Follow State Law (IA)

Prescription Drugs
» Oct – Prescription Drug Abuse Rates Drop
» Nov – Firing Prescription Drug User Was Discriminatory (UT)
» Nov – Addiciton Does Not Excuse Stealing Drugs (Alberta, CA)

Railroads
» Oct – High Positive Rates at AMTRAK

Random Testing
» June – Random Testing of Job Corps Workers Unconstitutional (Federal case)
» Dec – DOT - 2013 Random Testing Rates Notice

Refusal to Test/Shy Bladder
» Jan – Refusal to Test is Misconduct (NY)
» Jan – Failure to Promptly Show for Random Test is a Refusal
» March/April – Reinstatement After Refusal to Test is Not Contrary to Public Policy (CT)
» July/Aug – Employee Refuses Testing to Get Breast Lump Checked (MN)
» July/Aug – Shy Bladder Not Covered by ADA

School Drug Testing
» Oct – Drug Tested Students Are Less Likely to Use Drugs

Sports Testing
» Jan – Goats Disqualified by Positive Drug Tests

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
» Feb – Federal Tests Will Include Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, and Oral Fluid
» July/Aug – Proposed Rule for Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Oral Fluids Imminent
» Sept – Oral Fluid and Hydrocodeone/Oxycodone Proposal Imminent

Truck and Bus Drivers
» Jan – No Safe Harbor Where Driver Continues Drug Abuse (KY)

Unemployment Benefits
» Feb – Positive Random Drug Test is Misconduct (WI)
» March/April – Congress - States Can Drug Test Applicants for Unemployment Benefits

United States Coast Guard
» Feb – Request for Comments About Possible Rule Changes

Welfare
» June – States Require Drug Tests for Welfare Recipients

Workers’ Compensation
» June - Surge in Drug Tests Billed to Workers’ Comp

Back issues may be ordered for $15 each based upon availability. Call ACOEM Publications at 847/818-1800, ext 387, noting which issues and provide a credit card number – Master Card, Amex, Visa or Discover. Or, to purchase a complete year (10 issues) of print copies from 2006 - 2012 for $150 per year, visit ACOEM’s web-based Product Catalog at www.acoem.org within “Shop ACOEM” / MRO Resources. Indexes for these years are available for viewing or printout through the Catalog or can be found within the newsletter’s description/information in the web site’s “Knowledge Center” in the “Medical Review Officer” area.