



Invalid and Substituted Samples

Invalid Sample

The definition of an Invalid result according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidelines is as follows:

“The result of a drug test for a urine specimen that contains an unidentified adulterant or an interfering substance, has abnormal physical characteristics, or has an endogenous substance at an abnormal concentration that prevents the laboratory from completing or obtaining a valid drug test result.”

Specific gravity, creatinine, pH, and nitrites are validity tests used to determine specimen validity. The TASC laboratory follows the SAMHSA guidelines for determining invalid samples. When the sample falls within these guidelines, the laboratory drug test report will indicate **“SPECIMEN INVALID- Sample validity tests not within acceptable range. Recommend submission of new sample.”** The drug test report will display the validity tests only.

An invalid sample is a specimen that is not a suitable for drug testing as it has failed the validity tests for an unknown reason. The lab is unable to identify what is interfering with the tests. It does not mean it has been purposely adulterated but only that something is interfering with the testing. It could be adulterated or created by other sources such as a biological cause or excessive dilution. It is recommended another sample be collected as soon as possible.

Substituted Sample

Specific gravity and creatinine are validity tests used to determine specimen integrity. A substituted sample is a specimen with the creatinine and the specific gravity values that are excessively diminished or abnormal taken in conjunction that they are not consistent with human urine. The TASC laboratory will report a substituted sample on the individual laboratory report. These samples are not considered viable for drug testing and another sample should be collected as soon as possible.

If you need further assistance please call the TASC Laboratory at (602) 257-7588