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#### **University Services**



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#### **MRO** and DER

#### Selected Comments on

# MRO Medical Review Officer

&

# DER Designated Employer Representative

## **MRO Experience - What the US MRO Faces**

## **United States Federally MANDATED:**

#### **US DOT**

urine only, oral fluid & more opiates in the pipeline – 15 May 2015: [July 14, 2014]

-proposed OFMG establish standards and technical requirements for *oral fluid* collection devices, initial oral fluid drug test analytes and methods, confirmatory oral fluid drug test analytes and methods, processes for review by a Medical Review Officer (MRO), and requirements for federal agency actions.

-urine and oral testing procedures for four Schedule II prescription medications: hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxymorphone not currently included in the Mandatory Guidelines.

## **NON-MANDATED** Nationally, Internationally:

urine

hair

oral fluid/saliva

## **Objectives of US DOT Program**

#### Ensure the *Fairness & Integrity* of the testing process

Maintain employee privacy & confidentiality
4th Amendment Protections & Omnibus Act

#### Have "Gatekeepers" in place to ensure "due process."

HHS Certified Drug Testing Laboratories / NLCP Evidential Breath Testing Devices

#### **Medical Review Officers**

Substance Abuse Professionals

Systems must be auditable & reviewable by DOT Agencies

Develop "plain-language" regulations, policies, & guidance documents.





## What is an MRO?

MRO = Medical Review Officer

A Medical Review Officer is a

licensed physician who is responsible for



receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program and

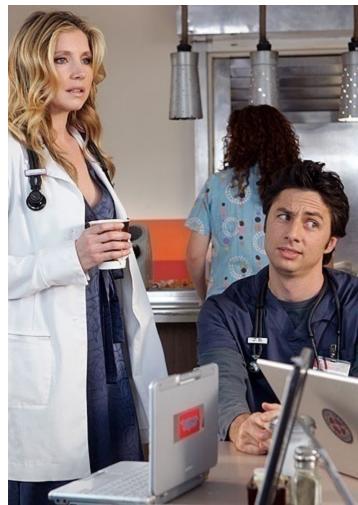
evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.

# **Laboratories & MROs**









Employers are required to have a

DER = Designated Employer Representative

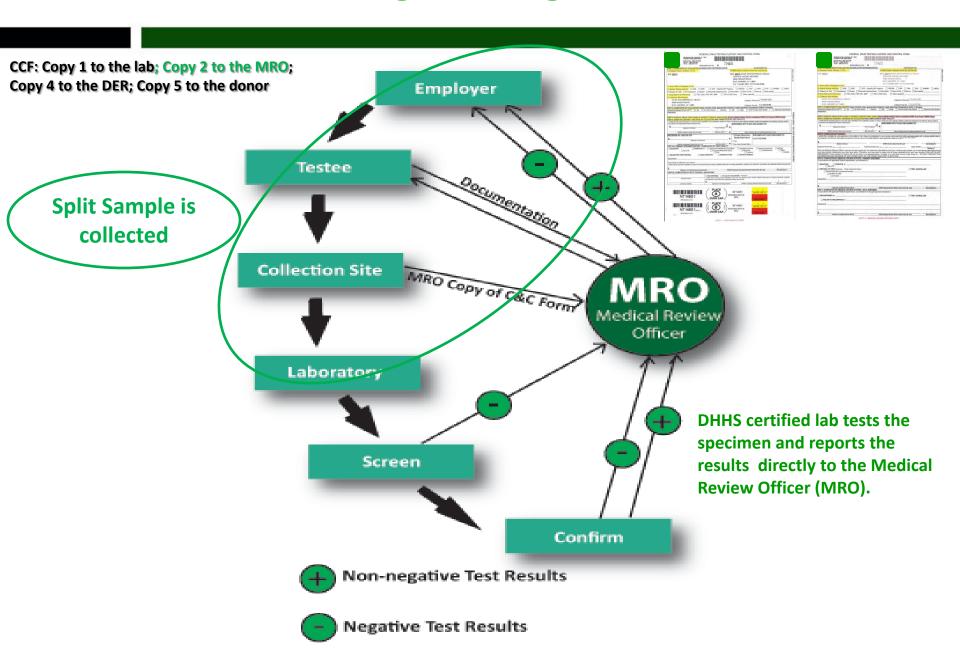
An employee authorized by the employer to take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes.

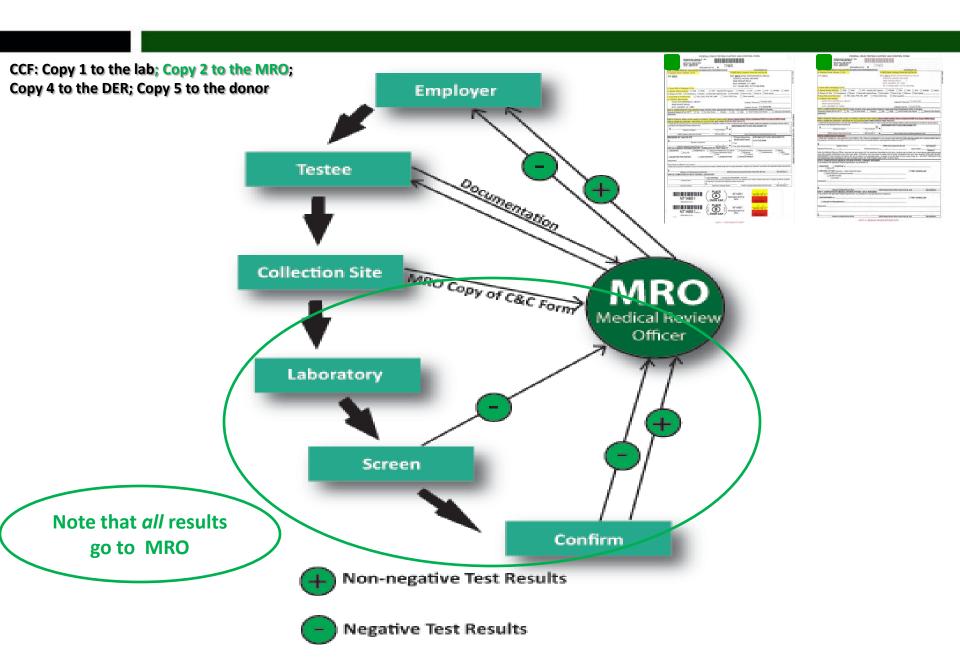
The DER also receives test results and other communications for the employer, consistent with the requirements of Part 40.

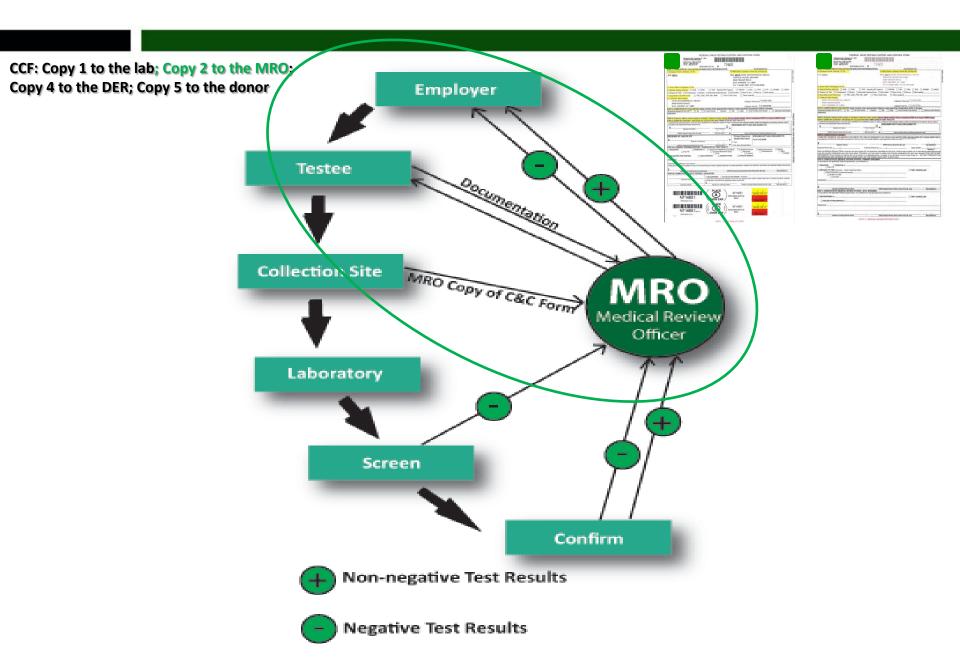
May Not Be Delegated: Service agents cannot act as DERs."

In the past, this person may have been referred to as the Program Administrator.









## Time is of the Essence







## **Verification Process: Non-Negative**

MRO must talk to the employee directly

Staff must not gather medical information



## **Medical Review Officer**

#### The Basics:

Is there a medical explanation for the result?



## **Documentation**



# **Even on the Best of Days....**



## **MRO: Someone Has To Do It**

What should be the qualifications of the Medical Review Officer?



#### **MRO**

#### In the United States:

Credentials: MD or DO [a physician]
Knowledge of Relevant Regulations
Qualification Training
Qulaification Examination



## **Qualification Training—Exam**

Following completion of qualification training must complete an examination administered by nationally-recognized MRO certification organization

The Government does not provide certification

Requalification every 5-years

#### **MRO COMPETENCY AREAS**

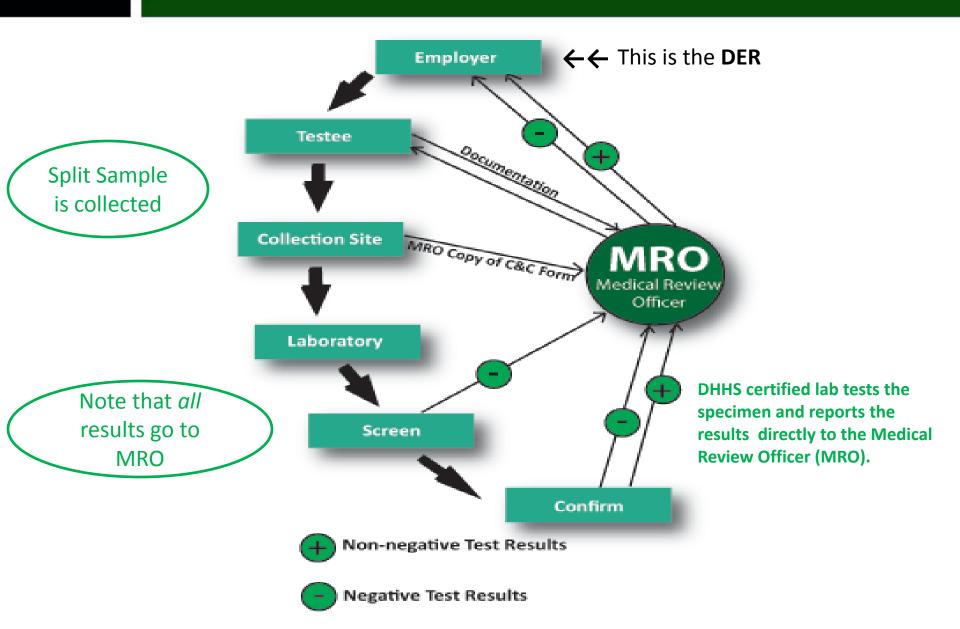
**Substance Abuse** 

Toxicology, Pharmacology, Pharmacokinetics, Laboratory Issues

MRO Responsibilities and Regulatory Issues

**Clinical Aspects** 

**Collections Procedures** 





Has Many Responsibilities

Title 49, CFR Part 40 requires employers to have a Designated Employer Representative (DER),

#### Defined [in 40.3] as:

An employee authorized by the employer to:

take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes.

The DER also receives test results and other communications for the employer, consistent with the requirements of Part 40.

#### Service agents cannot act as DERs."

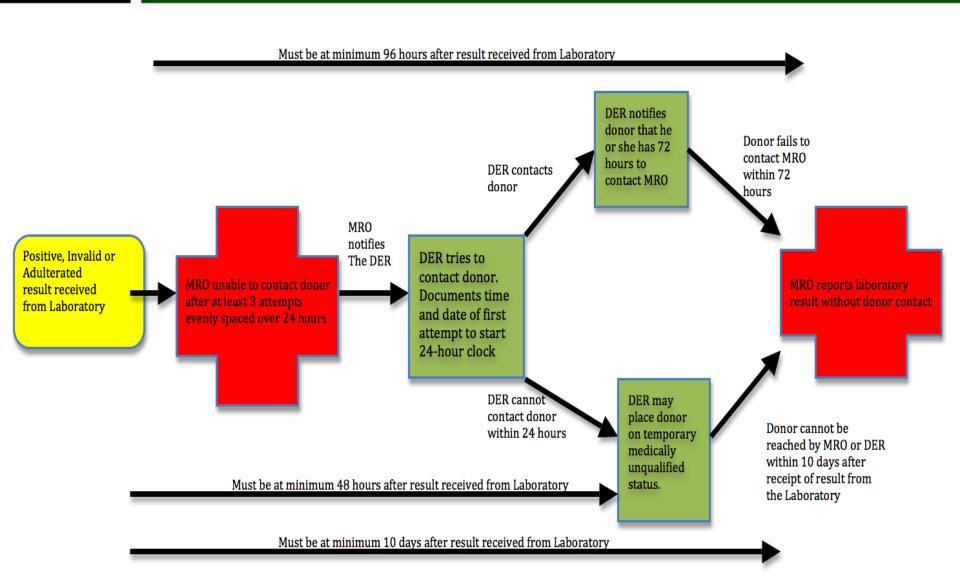
In the past, this person may have been referred to as the Program Administrator.



The MRO will verify the results and

Report (using procedures in 49 CFR Part 40) to the DER whether the test was positive or negative and the drugs for which there was a positive result.

## **Problems Contacting Donor**



## **Timely Flow of Test Results**

MRO must transmit to the DER on the same day or next business day:

All verified positive test results

Results requiring an immediate collection under direct observation

Adulterated or substituted specimens and other refusals to test

As an employer who receives a verified positive drug test result, you must IMMEDIATELY remove the employee involved from performing safety-sensitive functions

You must take this action upon receiving the initial report of the verified positive result

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## The Expectation

Laboratory Reports Today:

Negatives Are Reported Within The Hour: EVERY DAY



Non-negatives Assigned To MRO: Throughout The Day, Every Day

Outgoing Calls: 6am/06.00-11pm/23.00 In DONOR'S TIME ZONE:

At Least 3 Spaced Attempts
Today, Tonight, Tomorrow: *Every Day* 

Accept Return Call 24 Hours/Day: Every Day





## **MRO** in International Testing: Time Differences

Adequate telecommunications capabilities essential.

Quality and availability are important.

24 hour a day - 7 day a week availability to be considered.

Country specific time zone considerations must be evaluated.





## **MRO** Role in International Testing:

## Language Impacts

Language capability must be planned.

Native speaker helpful.

Interpreters next best solution.



Commercial service /simultaneous translation capability an option.

Web based language translation programs also worth considering.

# **Validity Testing**

| IF | Creatinine                     | AND | S.G.                        | THEN | Lab Reports         | AND | MRO Reports                   |
|----|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------|---------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
|    | > 20 mg/dl                     |     | Is not measured             |      | Ø                   |     | Ø                             |
|    | ≥ 2 mg/dl<br>but<br>< 20 mg/dl |     | > 1.0010<br>but<br>< 1.0030 |      | Dilute              |     | Dilute                        |
|    | ≥2 mg/dl                       |     | ≤ 1.0010                    |      | Invalid<br>(SCUDO)* |     | Cancelled Invalid<br>(SCUDO)* |
|    | < 2 mg/dl                      |     | > 1.0010<br>but<br><1.0200  |      | Invalid<br>(SCUDO)* |     | Cancelled Invalid<br>(SCUDO)* |
|    | < 2 mg/dl                      |     | ≤1.0010<br>or<br>≥1.0200    |      | Substituted         |     | Substituted                   |

<sup>\*</sup>SCUDO = Second Collection Under Direct Observation OK

## **Contact the DER**

40.167 - How are MRO reports of drug results transmitted to the employer

As the MRO or C/TPA who transmits drug test results to the employer, you must comply with the following requirements:

- (a) You must report the results in a confidential manner.
- (b) You must transmit to the DER on the same day the MRO verifies the result or the next business day all verified positive test results, results requiring an immediate collection under direct observation, adulterated or substituted specimen results, and other refusals to test.
- (1) Direct telephone contact with the DER is the preferred method of immediate reporting. Follow up your phone call with appropriate documentation (see ? 40.163).
- (2) You are responsible for identifying yourself to the DER, and the DER must have a means to confirm your identification.
- (3) The MRO's report that you transmit to the employer must contain all of the information required by ? 40.163.
- (c) You must transmit the MRO's report(s) of verified tests to the DER so that the DER receives it within two days of verification by the MRO.
- (1) You must fax, courier, mail, or electronically transmit a legible image or copy of either the signed or stamped and dated Copy 2 or the written report (see ? 40.163(b) and (c)).
- (2) Negative results reported electronically (i.e., computer data file) do not require an image of Copy 2 or the written report.
- (d) In transmitting test results, you or the C/TPA and the employer must ensure the security of the transmission and limit access to any transmission, storage, or retrieval systems.
- (e) MRO reports are not subject to modification or change by anyone other than the MRO, as provided in ? 40.149(c).

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