

## **Department of Transportation Amends Drug Testing Policy to Add Additional Drugs (Opiates) to its Regulation- 11/28/2017**

The Federal Department of Transportation has made changes to their drug testing program that will affect many workers who are in the safety sensitive transportation industry. When a change like this is made it is not unusual to see an increase in the number of employees who test positive for drugs during the first year after implementation. This new rule goes into effect January 1, 2018.

### **What is an Opiate?**

**An opiate is any substance that comes from opium and the opium poppy. Heroin, morphine, codeine, hydrodone (vicodin), oxycodone (oxycontin/percocet) fentanyl, tramadol, are all opiates and narcotic analgesics (painkillers).**

### **Summary:**

The Department of Transportation is amending its drug testing program to add hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, and oxycodone to its drug-testing panel; add methylenedioxyamphetamine as an initial test analyte; and remove methylenedioxyethylamphetamine as a confirmatory test analyte. The revision of the testing panel harmonizes DOT regulations with the revised HHS Mandatory Guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Federal drug testing programs for urine testing. This final rule clarifies certain existing drug testing program provisions and definitions, makes technical amendments, and removes the requirement for employers and Consortium/Third Party Administrators to submit blind specimens.