

Patient information sheet regarding toxicology testing for prison staff potentially exposed to NPS

You have indicated that you have potentially been exposed to a novel psychoactive substance (NPS) which may be the cause of your symptoms today. In order to investigate your potential exposure, we would like to carry out an extended drug screen.

Why are we doing the test?

The test may help identify if you have been exposed to an NPS recently. This could provide you with information regarding the cause of your symptoms. It will also provide us with information to assess the risk of exposure to NPS in your work setting to help guide current practice, and prevent exposure where possible.

What does it involve?

An extended drug screen involves taking a separate sample of blood, and a urine sample if possible. These samples will be sent to the Scottish Prison Authority Laboratory for analysis.

What does the drug screen test for?

The test looks at a wide range of illicit drugs. This list is being constantly updated as new novel psychoactive substances are detected. The range of drugs tested for includes methadone, cocaine, cannabinoids, opioidss, morphine, a wide range of NPS, MDMA, amphetamine and ketamine.

What will happen to the results?

The results will be sent to the Health Protection Team at NHS Lothian who will communicate the results to your GP. If further clinical care is required, your GP will be in touch. It is very unlikely that you will require further clinical care.

When can I get the results?

The results will not be available for approximately 8-10 weeks following the test.

Who can access the results?

Your GP and the Health Protection Team will be the only people who can access your results directly. Your employer will not be able to see your results. We will inform your employer of the results of all the tests completed to allow them to address work practices if necessary, but your employer will not be able to identify individual results.

Can I say no?

You do not have to have the test. If you would prefer not to have the test, this will not affect your care today. If you decide not to have the test today, due to the nature of the test, we will not be able to test you in the future if you change your mind. This is because NPS stay in the body for only a very short time.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Health Protection Team at NHS Lothian on 0131 465 5420