



News Release

Contact: Amy Blaser, Vice President

Phone: (402) 562-3371

Email: aebblaser@columbushosp.org

Date: March 1, 2021

Occupational Health Services' drug testing programs lead to safer, more productive workplaces

For Immediate Release

(COLUMBUS, Neb.) – Columbus Community Hospital's Occupational Health Services offers a variety of drug testing programs that can make local businesses safer and more productive.

According to a report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, about 1 in 5 Americans over the age of 12 used illicit drugs in the past year. In the same report, about 140 million people reported binge drinking and 17 million people reported drinking heavily in the past month.

This use of illegal drugs and overuse of alcohol can lead to problems in the workplace. Data from SAMSHA has shown that employees who use drugs are:

- More than 2 times more likely than their co-workers to be absent for 8 or more days a year
- More than 3 times as likely to be involved in an accident at work
- More than 5 times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim

Overall, substance abuse has been found to lead to higher rates of absenteeism, reduced productivity, decreased performance and higher rates of injuries in the workplace.

Drug testing programs can deter drug use in the workplace and lead to benefits including: increased productivity, fewer accidents, decreased employee turnover, decreased absenteeism, and reduced workers' compensation and health care costs.

OHS offers comprehensive substance abuse testing services, including:

- Department of Transportation and Non-DOT testing
- Post job offer and pre-placement testing
- Random testing
- Periodic testing
- Reasonable suspicion testing
- Post-accident testing



- Return-to-duty and follow-up testing

All OHS staff members are certified by DOT to provide urine drug screen collections and OHS is also part of a DOT consortium. This is a group of more than 300 companies for which OHS manages their random drug testing programs as mandated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Post job offer and pre-placement testing is the most common type of drug testing. These tests are usually performed after a conditional offer of employment when the candidate must have a negative drug test before they can start working.

Random drug testing can be performed at any point and on any employee. This type of testing has been found to be a particular deterrent to substance abuse because people never know when they will be randomly selected for a test. Periodic drug testing, on the other hand, is usually scheduled at predictable times throughout the year, such as part of employee's yearly physical exam.

Reasonable suspicion or "for cause drug testing" is performed when employers believe that there is evidence of employee drug use, such as erratic behavior. As its name suggests, post-accident drug testing is performed after an accident to see if drug use was involved. Follow-up and return-to-duty testing is used for employees who have previously had positive drug tests or who have otherwise violated a company's drug and alcohol policy.

The staff at OHS can perform all of these types of drug tests; urine drug screenings, either lab-based or rapid testing; hair collection screenings and oral fluid testing. The lab OHS uses for its tests is certified by SAMSHA and OHS provides confirmation to companies within 24 to 48 hours after they get a specimen back from the lab. OHS also has a medical review process in place for positive results.

In addition to its drug testing services, OHS offers a variety of health care programs designed to prevent and treat injuries in the workplace. Its medical programs have third-party objectivity to ensure unbiased testing and reporting, and they use state-of-the-art computer systems for rapid return of results and reports.

For more information on OHS and its drug testing programs, call 402-562-4480 or visit www.columbushosp.org.

###