



# TECHNICAL NOTICE

## SOUTH BEND MEDICAL FOUNDATION

March 2009

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### Drug Screen, Meconium

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**Effective Date:** March 9, 2009

**Performing Department:** Toxicology

**Methods:** Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

**Use:** Indicator of *in utero* drug exposure

**Clinical Significance:**

Meconium is the intestinal contents of a newborn infant that is excreted as the first stool. It is a dark green, semisolid material derived from biological waste such as intestinal secretions, fatty material, amniotic fluid, lanugo and various tissue cells. Meconium starts forming at approximately 16 weeks of gestation and accumulates during the rest of the gestational period. Drugs that a fetus is exposed to *in utero* are excreted into the fetal bile, which accumulates directly in the meconium. Thus, meconium testing may be used to derive information regarding gestational drug exposure.

Drug Screen Panel 4, Meconium
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amphetamines (Methamphetamine, Amphetamine)</li><li>• Cocaine</li><li>• Opiates (Codeine, Morphine)</li><li>• THC (Marijuana)</li></ul>



**Reference Range:** Negative

**Specimen Requirements and Collection:**

Specimen: • Meconium (infant's initial stool sample) collected in plastic container with tightly fitting lid

Requested Volume: • All meconium available (5 grams preferred)

Minimum Volume: • 1 gram

Collection: • Collect all meconium (dark green or greenish black material) in plastic container with tightly fitting lid

*Note:* Yellow or yellowish-green material indicates that the specimen is predominantly feces and is not suitable for testing

Processing: • Promptly refrigerate after collection

Stability: • 1 week refrigerated (2-8°C) • 1 month frozen (-20°C)

Storage/Transport: • Refrigerated

Rejection Criteria: • Sample other than meconium

**Testing Schedule:** • Tuesday and Thursday

**Order:** • **Drug Screen Panel 4, Meconium** .....Test #: **31170**..... CPT: 80101 x 4

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this notice to Rick L. Hoover, M.D., Prentiss Jones, Ph.D., or Paul Moorman of South Bend Medical Foundation, (574) 234-4176 or (800) 544-0925.

**SOUTH BEND MEDICAL FOUNDATION**

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