

Mandatory Drug Screening Requirement for Students

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals 2004 now requires that all staff members, students, instructors and volunteers meet new standards relating to criminal background and freedom from drugs.

Sutter clinical agencies require all students to successfully pass the drug screening to participate in mandatory clinical rotations. Sutter requires mandatory drug screening for all employees and students. Clinical agencies hold students to the same standards as they use for their employees. Mandatory drug-screening to ensure compliance with regulations will be required beginning Fall 2010.

The new Urine Drug Screen requires testing for the following: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine metabolites, marijuana metabolites, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine, propoxyphene.

Students must clear a urine drug test. Any student with a positive result will not be allowed to participate in clinical training at Sutter facilities. Since all students rotate through Sutter facilities and clinical is a part of each semester in the program, students will not be allowed to continue in the program.

Refusal to participate in the drug-screen portion of the requirement shall be interpreted as the student's unwillingness to complete the checklist of requirements and therefore that student will not be allowed to participate in clinical courses.

To comply with this new requirement, students must do the following:

1. Go online to Corporate Screening, enter your information, and pay \$51.00 for the Drug Screening. If a second test is necessary, you will need to pay for retesting.
2. After you have paid and set up your account, you will receive notification of the labs that are near you for testing. You will then select a lab and receive a one page document to take with you to the lab.
3. Go to the lab for the drug screen. If, in the above drug testing procedure, the result is dilute, you will need to be retested. If a second result is dilute you will be medically disqualified and the result treated as a non-negative result unless you can provide documentation from their private medical provider that there is a medical reason for such a result.

Corporate Screening completes the entire process of screening. All drug tests are sent to a Medical Review officer (MRO) at Corporate Screening. Every student who has a non-negative result will have an opportunity to speak with an MRO before the report is sent back to COM. Once the report is complete Corporate Screening provides a complete report to student and notifies the Program Director whether you are cleared or not as with the Background Check. For any non negative result the Program Director will consult with the student.

Any student with a positive result will not be allowed to participate in clinical training at clinical facilities. This must be completed prior to clinical placement.

If you have any questions please contact Roz Hartman at roz.hartman@marin.edu.