

QUESTION:

What are the retention requirements for blind specimens and records of blind specimen tests?

ANSWER:

- Laboratories, employers and other parties required to retain specimens and records of tests should retain blind specimens and records of blind specimen tests in exactly the same way and for the same periods of time as they do actual employee specimens and test records.
- For example, an employer would keep a record of a blind positive test for five years and a blind negative test for two years.
- Laboratories would keep blind specimens for negatives in accordance with their SOPs and non-negatives for one year.

QUESTION:

Requirements for submitting quarterly blind specimens to the laboratory went into effect mid-quarter, August 1, 2001. How are the new requirements for blind sample submission to be calculated? Are the blinds for July, 2001 to be calculated on the old Part 40 regulations and August and September, 2001 blind calculations based on new Part 40 regulations?

ANSWER:

- It is acceptable to send in blind specimens for July 2001, based on the requirements of the old Part 40 and for August-September based on the new Part 40 that went into effect August 1, 2001.

QUESTION:

Must an employer or C/TPA who is required to submit blind specimens to laboratories send adulterated or substituted blinds if the employer or C/TPA is not yet having specimens undergo validity testing?

ANSWER:

- At the present time, validity testing remains an employer option.
- Therefore, if an employer or C/TPA required to submit blind specimens is not conducting validity testing during the course of its normal testing, the employer or C/TPA needs not send adulterated or substituted blind specimens to the laboratories used.
- However, if an employer or C/TPA conducts validity testing, adulterated or substituted blind specimens must be sent to the laboratories used.
- Part 40 requires that approximately 75 percent of the blinds must be blank (i.e., containing no drugs, nor adulterated or substituted); 15 percent must be positive for one or more drugs; and 10 percent must be adulterated or substituted.
- If the employer or C/TPA is not exercising the option to conduct validity testing, approximately 75 percent of blinds must be blank and 25 percent must be positive for one or more drugs.