

ALFA-BITS™

“The Benefits Of Being Single”

When the recent CMS reimbursement changes took effect on April 1, 2010 for US Drugs of Abuse CLIA-Waived testing, Alfa Scientific Designs, Inc. started receiving an influx of calls for Single Drugs of Abuse tests. Why do you ask?

Alfa is actually one of the few manufacturers that produce CLIA-Waived single test devices.

The CMS changes included transitioning from the CPT code of 80101QW (which was used for multiple drug classes

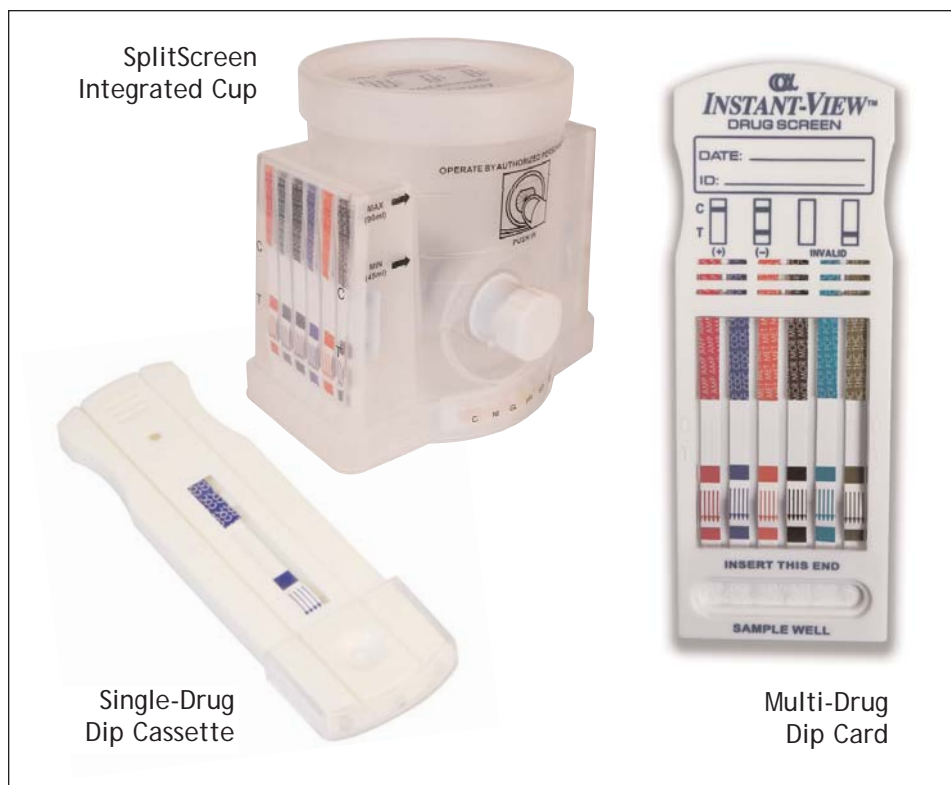
and allowed for multiple reimbursements per drug class) to two separate "G" codes. G0430QW is to be used for CLIA-Waived multi-drug panel tests. This code allows a one time reimbursement fee (~ \$20.83). G0431QW is for a CLIA-Waived single drug test and allows reimbursement at approximately \$19.72 per test device. The 80101QW code can still be used for private carrier insurance.

So in order for physicians to maximize their potential reimbursement, they are switching to single drug tests to be able to submit for multiple reimbursements.

Our CLIA-Waived Single-Drug Dip Cassette menu includes the following eleven tests:

- Amphetamine 1000 ng/mL
- Barbiturate 200 ng/mL
- Benzodiazepine 300 ng/mL
- Cocaine 300 ng/mL
- Methamphetamine 1000 ng/mL

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SplitScreen
Integrated Cup

Single-Drug
Dip Cassette

Multi-Drug
Dip Card



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Will California Go To Pot?

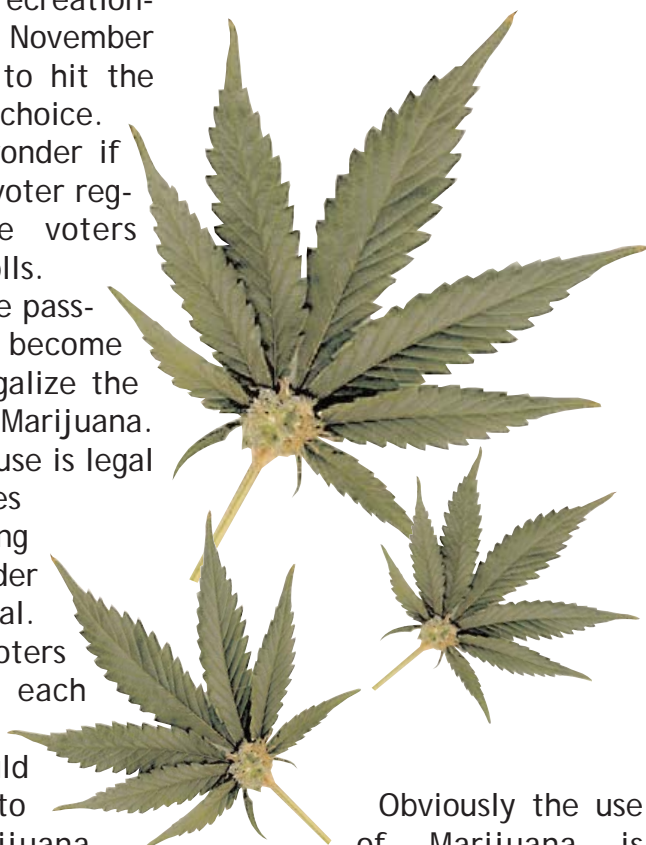
According to an article in the Associated Press (March 2010) California voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to legalize recreational Marijuana use. In November voters will be able to hit the polls and make their choice. Hmm, one has to wonder if this is going to spur voter registration and more voters showing up to the polls.

If the initiative passes, California will become the first state to legalize the recreational use of Marijuana. Currently Marijuana use is legal for medicinal purposes in 15 states (including California), but under federal law it is illegal.

If California voters push this through, each adult (aged 21 years or older) could legally possess up to one ounce of Marijuana - which is apparently enough to make several cigarettes. California residents could also grow the plant in limited quantities.

The bill is to include requirements such as not driving under the influence and not smoking in front of minors - but honestly how is the latter going to be enforced? Are the police

going to start visiting every house or apartment emitting the pungent cannabis smell? One would tend to think not.



Obviously the use of Marijuana is going to be debated heavily on both sides. There are those that hope it's legalization will be a revenue generator for the state (with permits, taxes, etc.) whereas there are others that fear that this is a dangerous springboard to harder drugs and thereby further increasing our nation's drug problem.

California Director for

the Drug Policy Alliance - Stephen Gutwillig believes that banning Marijuana has been "fueling a massive, increasingly brutal underground economy, wasting billions in scarce law enforcement resources and making criminals of countless law-abiding citizens."

Perhaps what Mr. Gutwillig and his other pothead cohorts are forgetting is that there is another part of our economy that is affected by the legalization of Marijuana - Drug Testing. Let's face it how many people are given pre-employment, post accident, reasonable suspicion or random drug tests? Almost anyone that has held a job in California has been tested at least once.

Many of the collection sites, individuals are sent to, use rapid-diagnostic tests before the expensive lab test is ever run. Just think of how many people are involved in drug testing? There are collectors, nurses, lab personnel and the clerical positions associated with those sites. There are also the couriers that transport urine specimens and all of the employees associated with manufacturers of rapid-diagnostic drug tests. Many of these

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WHERE VALUE MEETS QUALITY IN DIAGNOSTICS™

Will California Go To Pot?

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manufacturers are actually located in California and produce these tests in California. It would seem that drug testing generates a lot of jobs.

Truth be told though, while there are probably a lot of ex-hippies out there that would relish the opportunity to relive their youth and light up some Mary Jane legally, there are also those that would not like to be at home and be legally forced to send their minor out of the room when they want to do so. Let's face it, the

consumption of alcohol is also for adults over the age of 21, but when you lift up a glass of wine or a bottle of beer you aren't required by law to not be in front of a minor. And just what are the limits going to be when they say not in front of minors? Do you send them to a friend's house or over to a babysitter or just to the next room? Are you allowed to get high so long as your baby or child is in the other room? How do they stop their minor from lighting up or being exposed to the second-hand Marijuana smoke?

And then there are the non-smokers living in residences with shared walls (i.e.

condos, townhomes, apartments, etc) that will find issue with the oh so familiar smell of Marijuana permeating through.

Humboldt County, which is approximately 200 miles north of San Francisco is an area notoriously known for its illegal Marijuana farming. If Marijuana is legalized, will this area convert to the drug industry's version of a Napa Valley? Will we start to see farm tours, Marijuana sampling rooms, etc?

It would seem that California voters will have a lot to think about when they step into the polls come November 2010. It appears there are many pros and cons on both sides of the fence.

Odd Fact

French Kissing Blamed For Positive Drug Test

Last year French tennis star Richard Gasquet really pushed the envelope on the "defense" of passive ingestion/inhalation. It was his claim that the cocaine-tainted kisses he received from a nightclub waitress caused him to test positive on a urine screen. And oddly enough, according to an article in the Associated Press (July 2009), an International Tennis Federation tribunal believed him. That was some kiss.

CLIA-Waived Singles

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- Morphine/Opiate 2000 ng/mL
- Methadone 300 ng/mL
- Phencyclidine 25 ng/mL
- Tricyclic Antidepressant 1000 ng/mL
- Marijuana 50 ng/mL
- Ecstasy (MDMA) 500 ng/mL

These analytes are also available in our Multi-Drug Dip

Cards and Integrated Split Screen cups.

For more information on our CLIA-waived tests or any of our other diagnostic tests please contact your Alfa representative today or visit the following link on our website <http://www.alfascientific.com/alfa-products/drugs-of-abuse/cliawaived-products>.

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE: www.alfascientific.com

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