

The Benefits of Blue Fast, Reliable Oral Fluid Drug Test Collections

Executive Summary

Oral fluid drug tests provide employers with a versatile testing alternative that's applicable for a variety of employee screening situations ranging from pre-employment to random to post-accident testing. But there are important differences between oral fluid collection kits. Quest Diagnostics Oral-Eze® Oral Fluid Collection System and its sample adequacy indicator help to ensure that an adequate volume of oral fluid is collected to yield a valid laboratory test result.

Oral-Eze and its blue window clearly show the collector that a sufficient sample quantity has been provided. Oral-Eze also has no salty or citric taste, a key point of donor dissatisfaction with some other devices.

- In our 2011 study, 83 percent of donors provided sufficient oral fluid to yield a blue window in less than five minutes.
- 98 percent of the time, the window turned blue in ten minutes or less.

When proper collection protocols are followed, the majority of Oral-Eze collections are completed in less than five minutes. Collections that don't render the window blue in five minutes should continue for up to ten minutes. Other devices that lack a sample adequacy indicator put the collector and their company at risk of not collecting an adequate sample, which can lead to invalid screening results, recollections, and the additional cost of re-testing.

Employers choose to drug test their prospective and current employees for a number of reasons. Testing has been shown to improve morale and productivity, decrease absenteeism, accidents, downtime, turnover, theft and the usage of medical benefits. Testing allows employers to reap these benefits, deters drug users from applying for jobs and helps to create a workplace free of drug use. Whatever your specific reason for testing, the bottom line is that your company drug tests its applicants and employees because you want to verify that an individual is not abusing drugs.

With these points in mind, would you collect a urine drug test sample and then dump it out before sending it to the lab?

Would you collect a hair test sample, and then not have it screened? Would you send an oral fluid device without oral fluid on it to the lab for testing? Of course you wouldn't. Unfortunately, when it comes to oral fluid drug testing, if you're using a device that doesn't have a sample adequacy indicator, you may be at risk of not collecting enough oral fluid to complete a valid collection and test. Not only will this waste the money that you are spending on the drug test, but it may also result in you falling short of your primary goal of confirming that your donors are drug free.

Problems Solved

With some oral fluid collection systems, the test administrator or collector has no way of knowing if a sufficient quantity of oral fluid is collected. All too often, this can result in an inadequate specimen that has to be recollected. With its sample adequacy window, Oral-Eze helps to resolve this problem.

Oral-Eze also solves a primary concern presented by other devices which are treated with common salts and other substances designed to artificially "enhance" specimen collection. The Oral-Eze collection pad is not chemically treated and has no unpleasant salty or citric taste. Numerous collectors have reported that this is a significant enhancement for their donors who often complained about the "bad taste" of some other devices.

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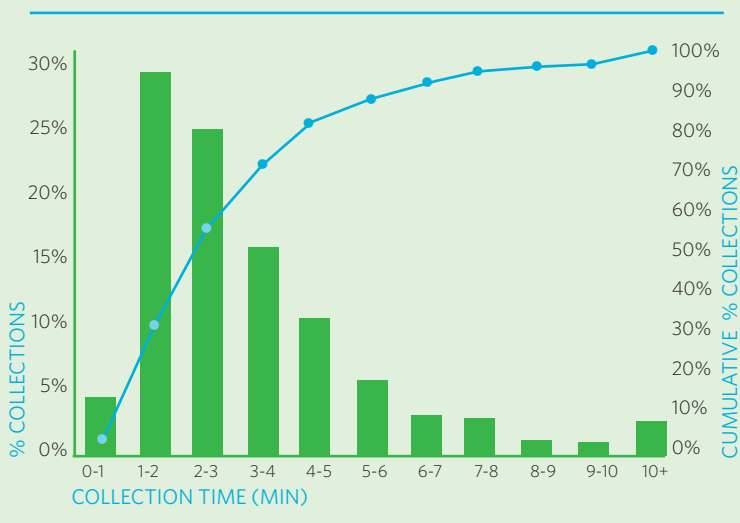
A Quality Device

Prior to introducing Oral-Eze to the market in 2011, we performed time studies on thousands of Oral-Eze devices. Ninety-eight percent (98 percent) of the time the window turned blue when given an adequate supply of oral fluid over a sufficient duration of time.

But we know that you are busy and that a fast collection time is important. With this in mind, we rigorously engineered the Oral-Eze device to conform to standard industry perceptions regarding how long an oral fluid drug test should take (3-5 minutes.) In our time studies, 83 percent of donors provided an adequate supply of oral fluid, indicated by the blue window, in less than five minutes.

While the device is standard, we realize that the individual donors are not. Some donors simply produce less oral fluid than others. To this end, we did find that 2 percent of our time trial tests did not turn the window blue in 10 minutes or less. Whether caused by dry mouth, or by donors purposely misdirecting their oral fluid away from the pad in an attempt to thwart the collection and test, a small portion of donors will fail to produce a blue window in an acceptable timeframe.

Collection Time Distribution



Dealing with Dry Mouth

Sometimes urine drug test donors experience what's referred to as "shy bladder", that is they are unable to void the urine necessary to be tested. Due to the nature of the urine collection, it's simple to determine the quantity of urine provided, and if needed, to provide the donor with something to drink to aid their production.

Just like shy bladders come into play in some urine collections, "shy" salivary glands are certainly not uncommon in oral fluid collections. Furthermore, it is possible for donors to direct saliva

away from the collection device or to swallow more frequently in an attempt to provide a less than adequate sample. As such, it's important that you as a collector coach your donors on how to properly provide a sufficient sample. Before beginning the collection, instruct the donor to pool their saliva. Once the Oral-Eze collector is their mouth, have them direct their saliva towards the device. Ask the donor to refrain from swallowing and talking and ensure that they keep the device in their mouth for the allotted time or until the indicator window turns blue.

It's up to the collector to instruct the donor on how to best provide their sample, and then it's up to the donor to follow those instructions. If these simple steps are followed, you can collect with confidence, knowing that the vast majority of your collections will be fast, efficient and complete.

Informed, Empowered Decisions

Employers need to address sample adequacy in their drug testing policies. While rendering a blue "collection complete" dot is certainly preferred, not producing a blue dot is also beneficial information for the collector/employer. An Oral-Eze screening that does not produce a blue dot within ten minutes provides you with valuable information that other devices lacking an indicator would have failed to provide. As a result of this information, you are better positioned to move forward, adhering to the direction provided in your drug testing policy.

Typical options include:

- You can choose to continue the collection. Eventually, the indicator window will turn blue, providing the assurance of a complete collection.
- You can choose to send the test to the lab despite having collected an incomplete sample. This may yield a QNS (quantity not sufficient) or an "Invalid" result due to an inadequate amount of oral fluid, but on the other hand it may be testable. Either way, you will know in advance that there is the potential that a sufficient quantity of oral fluid was not collected.
- You can send the donor to a Quest Diagnostics collection site and have a urine drug screen performed.

Start Testing with Oral-Eze

Our laboratory currently processes thousands of specimens every week from hundreds of clients across the country. We encourage you to make the switch today, and to start enjoying the functional and technological benefits of the Oral-Eze Oral Fluid Collection System.

If you have any questions or to get started with Oral-Eze visit Oral-Eze.com or contact our National Customer Support Center at (800) 877-7484.

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