

Drug Screening

Physical Therapist Assistant Program



All Health Science students are required to have a drug screen prior to the clinical experience. PTA students will have a drug screen during the first term of the program and during the 6th term of the program. In addition, students may be drug or alcohol tested for reasonable suspicion at their own expense. See policy below. PTA students with positive results on a drug or alcohol test will be withdrawn from the program.

The student portfolio (on the clinical documentation website/Viewpoint) will contain the drug screen results. Those results will be available to both the student and program administrator.

The process will be as follows:

- The student will be provided with information on setting up their account for the Viewpoint website during the mandatory program orientation.
- The student will receive a drug testing custody and control form from their Program Director/Viewpoint administrator closer to the student's clinical rotation. Please check with your Program Director when this requirement will be implemented.
- The student is responsible for the drug testing fee.
- Viewpoint accepts Visa, Mastercard, Discover, debit, electronic check or money order.
- The confirmation of payment will be issued to the student's email address they used when they placed the order.
- The confirmation form will be printed as proof to the program administrator. The confirmation order contains the student name, the date the product was purchased, the amount of the purchase, and what the clinical requirement is for.
- The program administrator will then issue the Forensic Drug Testing Custody and Control Form. The student will take this form to the designated laboratory site.

How should students schedule their drug test?

- The Ottumwa Regional Health Center Occupational Health is the designated drug testing laboratory site.
- Their address is: 1013 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite A, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.
- No appointment is necessary.
- Hours of operation are: 8:00-11:45am and 1:00-4:30pm, Monday through Friday.
- Take the Forensic Drug Testing Custody and Control Form to Ottumwa Regional Health Center Occupational Health Department.
- Results will be submitted to the Viewpoint Certified Background database from the lab testing site.

Who gets the results?

- The test results will first be reported to the Medical Review Officer (MRO) associated with Viewpoint for review and interpretation.

Negative Results:

- Negative Test Result: notice will be posted on the Viewpoint student account of passing the initial drug or alcohol test and this will be flagged as green.

Positive Results:

- If the result is positive, the MRO will contact the student to report a confirmed positive test result to the student.
- The MRO will directly contact the student to confirm any proof of the student prescriptions and make any necessary updates to the positive test result.
- The MRO will contact the student several times in a week to report a confirmed positive test result to the student.
- Positive test results will flag as yellow in the student's ViewPoint portal.
- Directors/Viewpoint administrators will always have access to these flagged results via the student's health portal.
- The student may contact Quest at 800-877-7484. The hours of operation for Quest when making this phone call will be between 8-5 EST.
- Any questions regarding the results of any drug or alcohol test may be directed to the MRO via the chat option in their ViewPoint account.
- The student is responsible for the cost of the second confirmatory test.
- During the second confirmatory process, students may be suspended from the clinical and/or classroom experience.

Right to Secondary Confirmatory Test:

- A student with a confirmed positive test result may ask for a second confirmatory test using ONLY the results from the first test sample from another approved laboratory within seven days of the IHCC mailing of the positive test results to the student.
- The confirmatory test will be conducted on a portion of the sample collected at the same time as the sample that produced the positive test result.
- The student is responsible for the cost of second confirmatory test.
- The sample of collection test will be split in the presence of the individual student to allow for the confirmatory testing of any initial positive test result.
- During the confirmatory process, students may be suspended from the clinical and/or classroom experience.

Confirmed Positive Results:

- Students with any confirmed positive results will be withdrawn from the program.

Legal Medication/Drugs Notification:

- A student must notify the clinical supervisor or Program Director whenever they are using a prescription or over-the-counter drug, which may affect safety or work-performance.
- In making this determination, the student is responsible for consulting with their licensed healthcare professional and reviewing any warning on the label to determine if any medication or drug would adversely affect the student's ability to safely perform essential functions of the clinical or classroom experience.
- If the student is deemed by a Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner to be safe during the clinical or classroom experience, a "release to attend clinical/classroom document" is required to be signed and kept in the student's file at IHCC.
- The student who does not fully disclose this information will be subject to possible disciplinary action which may lead to dismissal from the program.

Prescription medications that do not impair performance may be brought to the clinical site and should be taken as prescribed. All prescription drugs must be kept in the pharmacy dispensed container.

Testing due to reasonable suspicion:

- Once a student is enrolled in the program, if there is a reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol use, the Program Director will have the right to approve an additional drug or alcohol test at the student's expense. The clinical site also has the right to request a drug/alcohol test at the student's expense.

Reasonable suspicion may include, but is not limited to:

- Student behavior or conduct including physical manifestations
- Evidence that the involved student has caused or contributed to a clinical or classroom related accident
- Objective signs that the involved student may have used drugs or alcohol (i.e., slurred speech, staggering gait, odor of alcohol), or reports from others of a clinical "accident", slurred speech, etc.

When a Program Director, faculty member or clinical instructor has suspicion of alcohol or drug use during the clinical experience, the following steps will be taken:

- Remove student from the patient care area or assigned work area and notify the clinical instructor and the Program Director.
- Consult with another faculty, clinical instructor, or employee for verification of suspicions in a confidential manner.
- Upon verification by a second person, inform the student that they are relieved from duty and that there is a need "for cause" drug/alcohol screening.
- If the student admits to alcohol and/or drug use, the student must undergo urine drug testing.
- Pending the resolution of any testing, the student will be suspended from clinical and/or classroom sites.
- A student subsequently found to have positive test results will be removed from the program.
- All incidents involving "reasonable suspicion" drug testing in the clinical setting will be handled with strict confidentiality.
- Costs for "reasonable suspicion" drug testing are the student's responsibility.

Transportation of student after reasonable suspicion:

- An unimpaired person (such as a family member or friend) or taxi cab must transport the student to nearest testing facility. A release form must be signed by the person transporting the student and provided to the Clinical Supervisor/Program Director. If a taxi is transporting the student, the person observing the student enter the taxi may sign the release form and provide the form to the Clinical Supervisor/Program Director.
- If the nearest testing facility is at the clinical site, the student should be sent for testing and then an unimpaired individual or taxi cab should take the student home. If a taxi is transporting the student, the person observing the student enter the taxi may sign the release form.
- While awaiting transport, the student should not be allowed to leave a supervisor's presence or ingest any substances.
- If the student insists on driving, either clinic supervisor or Program Director will notify law enforcement.
- Pending the resolution of any testing, the student will be suspended from clinical and field sites.
- A student subsequently found to have positive test results will be removed from the program.

If the student refuses "reasonable suspicion" testing:

- Have an unimpaired individual or taxi take the student home
- Document the following in writing:
 - Student behavior
 - Actions taken
 - Written statement of person verifying behaviors
 - Student's response

- Contact the Clinical Supervisor/Program Director as soon as possible and deliver written documentation to the Clinical Supervisor/Program Director within 3 days of the incident.
- Students who refuse reasonable suspicion testing will be removed from the program.

If a facility other than the approved testing site at Ottumwa Regional Health Center performs drug/alcohol testing:

- The student is **obligated to notify** the Program Director of any request by a clinical site for additional testing due to reasonable suspicion.
- If tested by a clinical site, the student shall provide the Program Director with a copy of any test results.
- Failure to promptly notify the Program Director shall be ground for dismissal from the program.
- The student is responsible for any expense incurred with testing.

If a student voluntarily discloses a drug or alcohol problem:

- If a student voluntarily discloses that they have an alcohol/drug problem and requests assistance, they are then referred to their health care provider for appropriate care.
- Students may be temporarily suspended from the program and/or clinical experience until such time as they have completed drug/alcohol treatment and are considered safe to return to both the classroom and clinical site by a Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.

Minor Students:

- Any minor student under the age of 18 must abide by the criminal background checks and drug screen policy specific to their program of study.
- A parent or legal guardian of a student under the age of 18 must sign an acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of this policy.
- Those students who are minors under the age of 18 must obtain parental/legal guardian consent.
- Lack of consent for testing will disqualify the minor from continued clinical participation and participation in the Program.

Providing False Information:

- Any student who provides false information when completing paperwork required for a drug test or when responding to required questions for an alcohol or drug screen test will be removed from the Program.
- Any student who dilutes, contaminates, tampers with, alters or interferes in any way with the collection of a specimen for testing purposes will be removed from the program.

Costs:

- The costs of alcohol or drug rehabilitation, treatment and counseling will be the responsibility of the student.
- Costs of drug/alcohol testing are the responsibility of the student

I understand the drug policy:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____