

The University of Michigan School of Nursing

Undergraduate Student Drug Screening Policy and Procedure

The use of “alcohol and other substances potentially places patients, the public, and nurses themselves at risk for serious injury or death” (International Nurses Society on Addictions, 2017). The University of Michigan School of Nursing (UMSN) is committed to the safety of patients, students, faculty, and staff. The UMSN is also dedicated to the promotion of health of its community members including those with physical, psychiatric, and substance use concerns and establishes consistent policies and procedures that foster safety and health. The UMSN supports wellness, restoration and rehabilitation of students to promote optimal personal and professional functioning. The UMSN supports students in caring for themselves in order to safely care for others.

In an effort to promote patient safety and to facilitate early identification and intervention for students with substance use and related disorders, as well as compliance with mandates of affiliated clinical agencies, it is the policy of the UMSN to test for substance use among all of its students annually.

All students enrolled at UMSN who participate in clinical and or research activities must complete an annual drug screening test.

- Students must provide a viable urine specimen to be tested for substances, consistent with industry standards in the health care field on dates specified by the UMSN.
- Some clinical site guidelines may be more stringent than industry standards and require 12 panel drug screening tests.
- Refusal to provide a specimen for drug screening will be considered a positive drug test and subject to the established procedures for positive tests.
- In special circumstances, the UMSN may request the collection of an alternative specimen such as blood or hair.
- Screening must occur at a facility specified by the UMSN.
- Screening will be at the expense of the student.
- The following may be screened for including but not limited to: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, oxycodone, phencyclidine (PCP), propoxyphene and tramadol
- Drug tests are reviewed by the Medical Review Officer (MRO) retained by the compliance vendor. MROs may access the Michigan Automated Prescription (MAPS) or alternatives as indicated, to corroborate the existence of a legitimate prescription for the students. For claims related to purported prescription medications, e.g. benzodiazepines, opioids, the students will sign any and all releases of information (ROI) as requested by the MRO to allow for communication with the identified prescriber and to facilitate fact-finding by the MRO. The MRO will make a determination regarding the legitimacy of any prescriptions or evidence of illicit substance use. Students who do not provide ROI will be treated as if the screens are positive.

- Clinical agencies must also approve placements for students with positive drug screens or the placement will be cancelled. If the MRO cleared the positive test, then that documentation along with the health provider's note documenting the prescription use must also be sent to the Clinical agency for review and clearance for placement. If the placement is not approved, another placement option will be considered for that individual. Agencies that are members of the ACEMAPP placement system require that they be informed of positive drug screens.
- To ensure confidentiality, one undergraduate and one graduate liaison within the UMSN will be identified as the contact people to receive positive drug screen reports and will convey that information to the appropriate program Associate Dean.
- Any clinical or research related activity will immediately be suspended pending the outcomes of an inquiry.
- The drug screen results and details of these or related findings remain the sole responsibility and privilege of the UMSN and for sake of confidentiality. The results are maintained within the compliance documentation system maintained by the vendor and are not placed in the student academic files. Results of the screen are not specifically reported but all external and internal communication would indicate that the student is "not in compliance" with requirements for clinical placement or research activity. However, as stated earlier, the positive results would be shared with the clinical or research agency per agency guidelines if the MRO clears the student for placements.
- The student will be interviewed by the Associate Dean and any other UMSN officials relevant to the situation and referred for a substance use evaluation to a facility and/or health provider professional specializing in substance abuse treatment, as specified by the UMSN.
- The student will be responsible for any expenses related to the substance use evaluation and treatment.
- The student must be evaluated for substance use by the health professional and must sign a ROI allowing the evaluator to report findings and recommendations for treatment related to the substance use to the Associate Dean of the student's respective program at UMSN.
- If the student refuses to obtain a substance use evaluation or sign a RIO allowing the UMSN access to recommendations from the evaluation, this will result in the inability to continue in the clinical or research areas in any affiliated agency until these are completed.
- The Associate Dean or designee will review the recommendations and make a determination regarding the student's ability to continue their clinical or research activities at that point in time. Consideration will be given to the nature of the substance use, impairment, treatment recommendations, and affiliated agency requirements.
- Students for whom no treatment recommendations are made will be referred to an education program related to substance use such as those on alcohol or marijuana use.
- In the event that the results of the substance use evaluation indicate need for treatment, the UMSN will require that the student sign a ROI from the health professional conducting the treatment. The UMSN will request recommendations from the health provider as well as a negative drug screen in order for the student to return to any clinical or research activity in an agency.

- A return to any clinical placement or research activity in an affiliated agency will require a negative drug screen and satisfactory recommendations by the health care provider. The student must also meet Technical Standards as stated in the UMSN Undergraduate Student Handbook of Academic Policies and Procedures.
- Students who have had a positive drug screen, which was not cleared by the MRO, and those with a positive drug screen and subsequent intervention must submit to random drug screening for one year at times designated by the UMSN. Another positive drug screen will initiate the steps of the drug policy procedure again. Subsequent positive tests and subsequent delays in completing program requirements may result in an inability to complete the program and can be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.