

Glossary of Terms Used in Australian Drug Testing:

Adulteration	To corrupt, debase, or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance or element; <i>especially</i> : to prepare for sale by replacing more valuable with less valuable or inert ingredients.
Antibodies	Any of a large number of proteins of high molecular weight that are produced normally by specialized B cells after stimulation by an antigen and act specifically against the antigen in an immune response, that are produced abnormally by some cancer cells, and that typically consist of four subunits including two heavy chains and two light chains -- called also <i>immunoglobulin</i> .
Antigen	Usually protein or carbohydrate substance (as a toxin or enzyme) capable of stimulating an immune response. – Used in describing components of instant immunoassay tests.
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
Biohazard	A biological agent or condition that constitutes a hazard to humans or the environment; <i>also</i> : a hazard posed by such an agent or condition
Conjugate	Joined together especially in pairs: COUPLED b : acting or operating as if joined – used in describing components of instant immunoassay tests.
Creatinine	A white crystalline strongly basic compound $C_4H_7N_3O$ formed from creatinine and found especially in muscle, blood, and <u>urine</u> . Used as an indication of adulteration through consuming too much water thereby diluting the sample to give a negative result.
Cross-Reactivity	Reaction of one antigen with antibodies developed against another antigen – in other words – substances that can cause false positive/negatives with instant tests.
Cut-Off Levels	The point at which the result of a test above the cut-off is deemed a positive result.
GC	Gas Chromatography - in which the sample mixture is vaporized and injected into a stream of carrier gas (as nitrogen or helium) moving through a column containing a stationary phase composed of a liquid or particulate solid and is separated into its component compounds according to their affinity for the stationary phase
Immunoassay	The identification of a substance (as a protein) based on its capacity to act as an antigen. This is most often described in relation to instant-tests – the ones most people would be familiar with are the pregnancy type tests – where the absence or presence of a line on a small device indicates a positive or negative result.
Immunochemical Reaction	Physiological immunity < <i>immunology</i> >
In Vitro	Outside the living body and in an artificial environment.
Metabolites	A product of metabolism – usually in relation to the drugs that have been metabolised by the body and show up in drug tests.
MS	Mass Spectrography - an instrument for dispersing radiation (as electromagnetic radiation or sound waves) into a spectrum and photographing or mapping the spectrum
Negative predictive value	Proportion of negatives that really are negative

Nitrite	A salt or ester of nitrous acid – an indicator of adulteration
pH	A measure of acidity and alkalinity of a solution that is a number on a scale on which a value of 7 represents neutrality and lower numbers indicate increasing acidity and higher numbers increasing alkalinity and on which each unit of change represents a tenfold change in acidity or alkalinity and that is the negative logarithm of the effective hydrogen-ion concentration or hydrogen-ion activity in gram equivalents per litre of the solution; <i>also</i> : the condition represented by a pH number. In drug testing it is an indicator of adulteration.
Positive predictive value	Proportion of positives that really are positive.
Qualitative	Of, relating to, or involving quality or kind. Tells you whether it is positive or negative, but not by how much – simple pass/fail system – most often seen in breathalysers.
Qualitative Analysis	Chemical analysis designed to identify the components of a substance or mixture.
Quantitative	Of, relating to, or involving the measurement of quantity or amount. Tells you whether it is positive or negative, and by how much – usually provides numbers – most often seen in breathalysers.
Reagent	A substance used (as in detecting or measuring a component, in preparing a product, or in developing photographs) because of its chemical or biological activity
SAMSHA	US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
Sensitivity	How good at finding true positives.
Specific Gravity	The ratio of the density of a substance to the density of some substance (as pure water) taken as a standard when both densities are obtained by weighing in air. In drug testing it is an indicator of adulteration.
Specificity	How good at finding true negatives.
WDTA	Workplace Drug Testing Association – Australia's largest and most important association of drug testing companies, suppliers etc.