MRO VERICATION

Prescription drug safety advisory
SAFETY ADVISORY

**SAFETY ADVISORY** – Potential safety risk of this individual performing safety sensitive job functions (this includes commercial driver). It has been identified that there is a potential safety risk of this individual performing safety sensitive job functions. He/she will require an evaluation by a physician. The physician performing the evaluation should be provided with a job description in order to determine the individuals fitness for duty. This evaluation should be obtained before this individual performs any safety sensitive job functions.
SAFETY ADVISORY

§ 40.327 When must the MRO report medical information gathered in the verification process?

(a) As the MRO, you must, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, report drug test results and medical information you learned as part of the verification process to third parties without the employee's consent if you determine, in your reasonable medical judgment, that:

(1) The information is likely to result in the employee being determined to be medically unqualified under an applicable DOT agency regulation; or

(2) The information indicates that continued performance by the employee of his or her safety-sensitive function is likely to pose a significant safety risk.

US DOT Drug and Alcohol Regulations – 49 CFR Part 40
MRO VERIFICATION

Authorized marijuana
“§ 40.151 What are MROs prohibited from doing as part of the verification process?

As an MRO, you are prohibited from doing the following as part of the verification process:

(e) You must not verify a test negative based on information that a physician recommended that the employee use a drug listed in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. (e.g., under a state law that purports to authorize such recommendations, such as the “medical marijuana” laws that some states have adopted.)”

US DOT Drug and Alcohol Regulations – 49 CFR Part 40
REASONABLE RISK OF IMPAIRMENT

• Dried marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada. The Government of Canada does not endorse the use of marijuana, but the courts have required reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana when authorized by a healthcare practitioner.

• Health Canada Website
REASONABLE RISK OF IMPAIRMENT

• Recently abstinent cannabis users (7 hours to 20 days) may experience impairment in attention, concentration, inhibition and impulsivity during the period in which THC and its metabolites are eliminated. The greatest residual deficits in executive function are found following prolonged use of cannabis. (Whitlow, et al. 2004)
PROCESS MANAGEMENT

Employer Action – Positive Drug Test Type THC

Is there legal authorization?

YES

Able to use alternate therapies which would not restrict safety sensitive job placement?

YES

Substance Abuse Assessment

NO

NO

• Disqualified from working in safety sensitive position
• Alternate position may be considered
• Accommodation may be required based on underlying disability

Completion of recommendations

Negative return to duty drug test

Return to workforce with follow up testing
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