

To: EMMC, EMHS Hospital Labs, and ALI Clients

From: Affiliated Laboratory, Inc.

Subject: Serum Drug Screen

Effective 2/20/2018, the Serum Drug Screen (SDR) will no longer be available at Affiliated Lab, Inc. Urine is considered the preferred specimen for drug screening since urine collection is non-invasive, both parent drugs and metabolites are present allowing for better identification, and drug detection windows are generally longer. While urine is considered the best for overall drug screening, blood testing (serum or plasma) can still be of value for specific analyte quantitation or when urine assays are not available. Several of the analytes previously present in the Serum Drug Screen (SDR) can therefore still be ordered on blood samples on an **individual** basis (please see table below).

Cerner Powerchart users: Please note the serum drug screen is no longer active in any order sets or power plans. Please delete serum drug screens from your **favorites**.

Please use the chart below to determine suggested testing alternatives.

Serum Drug Screen Components	Testing Alternative
Acetaminophen, Salicylate, Carbamazepine, Phenobarbital, Phenytoin, and Caffeine	Available as individual test order
Ethanol, Methanol, Acetone, and Isopropanol	Available as a "Volatiles Panel" (includes all four) or as individual test order
Benzodiazepines	Referral testing may be requested for quantitation of individual benzodiazepines. (Turn around test time up to 5 days.)
Butalbital, Pentobarbital, and Meprobamate	Referral testing may be requested. (Turn around test time up to 5 days.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ALI Toxicology at 207-973-6955 or Dr. Orin Buetens, laboratory medical director at 207-941-8200.