

MEDICAL EXAMINATION FAQs – PART 8

LABORATORY TEST FOR UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES STATION

Q-1: What is tested at the Laboratory Test for Unauthorized Substances station?

A-1: At this station, you will be asked to provide a urine sample in a private space before a witness of your same gender. The sample will be sent to an outside laboratory and will be tested for certain unauthorized substances.

Q-2: Is it a problem if I take certain medication?

A-2: Even with a legal prescription, the chronic use of certain categories of substances may be incompatible with the job of a Firefighter. These categories include, but may not be limited to: opiates, pain medications, anti-psychotic medications, sedatives, sleeping pills, beta blockers, and anti-coagulants.

A positive test for one of these types of substances will require further evaluation. Candidates will be reviewed on an individualized basis. You may be required to provide a prescription history, an explanation for the prescription, and an opinion as to how long the prescription will be continued from the prescribing physician. You will be required to report medications that you are taking, and your failure to report a medication could result in your disqualification.

Q-3: What are some test results that may disqualify me?

A-3: Any candidate who tests positive for an unauthorized substance not reported as a legal prescription to the FDNY (including, but not limited to, marijuana, methadone, opiates, heroin, cocaine, barbiturates, and benzodiazepine) or a substance taken with a legal prescription that is found to be incompatible with the job of a Firefighter (as described in Q-2 above) will be sent a Notice of Proposed Disqualification (NOPD) for unauthorized substance(s).