

Swiss Guidelines 2011 for Drugs of Abuse Testing

Swiss Guidelines Committee for Drugs of Abuse testing (SCDAT):

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The Drugs of Abuse Testing (DAT) Laboratory Guidelines are a revision of the Swiss AGSA guidelines published in 1996 and are permanently revised by a committee representing members of institutions such as the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, the Swiss Association of Pharmacists, the Swiss Society for Clinical Chemistry, the Swiss Society of Legal Medicine, the Swiss Association of Diagnostics Manufacturers, the Swiss Society for Directors of Clinical Laboratories and the University of Bern. The committee (SCDAT) works under the auspices of the Swiss Union for Laboratory Medicine.

The guidelines contain a valuation of today's applied methods in drug analysis (onsite tests, instrumental immunoassays, chromatography, mass spectrometry) in urine and blood, recommendations for cut-off values, comments on quality assurance, documentation, interpretation and legal aspects in the therapeutical (medical), forensic and social field as well as in workplace DAT. Short reviews of pharmacokinetics of some important drugs of abuse complete the document.

The DAT guidelines are intended as recommendations and have no legally binding intention. The objectives of SCDAT are to periodically update and harmonize DAT in Switzerland in accordance with international guidelines.

The 2011 DAT guidelines are published in German, English and French and will be accessible via www.scdat.ch.