



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 24-13

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## NITROUS OXIDE (NOS) TESTING

The purpose of this FYI is to provide staff with information regarding Nitrous Oxide (NOS) testing. Nitrous Oxide is not a part of the standard panel of substances for testing and requires the following:

- Specialized Testing
- A court order

A blood test is the primary mode of testing for Nitrous Oxide. [Instructions](#) on how to request Nitrous Oxide testing via a [specialized testing referral](#) can be located on the Drug and Alcohol Testing Services website, “[Forms](#)” section.

If blood testing for Nitrous Oxide is requested by the court, please see the [attached document](#) for additional information regarding this type of testing.

Nitrous Oxide only has a detectable half-life in blood of approximately five (5) to fifteen (15) minutes. This can be longer if an individual is a chronic user of Nitrous Oxide, but in general, Nitrous Oxide is only detectable for a very short time.

Physiological factors affect the way our bodies metabolize drugs, including Nitrous Oxide. Some of these factors are:

- Age
- Physical Activity
- Frequency and intensity of use

Only three (3) sites offer Nitrous Oxide testing:

- Allmed of El Monte
- Catalina Island Medical Center in Avalon
- Clinica Medica General in Los Angeles

This is subject to change depending on our testing vendor, however. Please consult with a Drug Testing Program manager at: [Specializeddrugtesting@dcsf.lacounty.gov](mailto:Specializeddrugtesting@dcsf.lacounty.gov) prior to referring a client to test for Nitrous Oxide.

The cost per Nitrous Oxide test \$556 per test (the cost of a standard urine test is \$38).

When requesting Nitrous Oxide testing, please keep all of the aforementioned in mind. Any questions regarding Nitrous Oxide may be directed to: [Specializeddrugtesting@dcsf.lacounty.gov](mailto:Specializeddrugtesting@dcsf.lacounty.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

[Policy@dcsf.lacounty.gov](mailto:Policy@dcsf.lacounty.gov)

*(right click to open footer section and access link)*