

# Facing the 'Legal High' Challenge

'Legal highs' are a major clinical problem, with products retailed throughout the UK. Patient presentations include reduced consciousness, heart problems, seizures and psychotic episodes.

- Seen in 2.5- 10% of samples from substance misuse clinics, depending on location.
- Our new markers cover compounds found in current 'head shop' products.

## Drugs of Abuse Service

- Urine or oral fluid
- Panel of 25 tests (see below)
- Overcomes false positive/negative results and high cost of immunoassay screening
- Price: £20. Turn round: 1 working day

## LC-QTOF Screen

- Looks for over 1,200 drugs and metabolites in urine
- Includes over 60 legal highs with more being added
- Service includes detailed clinical interpretation
- Price: £80. Turn round: 1 working day

## New Test Panel from 1 July 2014

- Identical repertoire for urine and oral fluid
- Legal high markers are best detected and interpreted in urine samples where we have most experience

**Opiates:** Morphine, Codeine, DHC, 6-MAM

**Opioids:** Thebaine, Methadone, EDDP, Buprenorphine, Norbuprenorphine

**Cocaine:** Cocaine / Benzoylcegonine

**Benzodiazapines:** Diazepam, Nordiazepam, Oxazepam, Temazepam

**Amfetamines:** Amfetamine, Metamfetamine, MDMA, MDA, Mephedrone,<sup>1</sup> 4-MEC<sup>1</sup>

**'Legal Highs':** Adamantyl marker<sup>2</sup> (AKB-48, 5F-AKB-48 & STS-135), Ethylphenidate,<sup>3</sup> MPA<sup>3</sup>

**Other drugs:** Ketamine, Tramadol

1: Originally a 'legal high' now Class B. 2: Predominant compounds in current smoking products.

3: Major drugs in current powders and pills.



**NEW  
Test  
panel**

Further info: [info@cityassays.org.uk](mailto:info@cityassays.org.uk) • [www.cityassays.org.uk](http://www.cityassays.org.uk) • 0121 507 4138

Address for samples: Clinical Biochemistry, City Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham B18 7QH