



Participant procedure: CDT screening

Procedures provide practical step by step guidance to describe processes and actions required to enable the implementation of a policy or guideline. They can also be developed to ensure compliance with legislative or policy requirements by members, staff or delegates of the Council

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Procedure	DD17/63382	PROMED004

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Summary

This procedure explains to medical practitioners and students who have CDT screening conditions imposed on their registration how to participate in screening. It also explains the process for sample collection for any other blood tests that may be required in the course of alcohol screening.

Applies to (scope)

- NSW medical practitioners and students required to undergo CDT screening
- Medical Council of NSW, its delegates and secretariat staff

Document owner	Functional group/subgroup
Medical Director	Monitoring

Participant procedure: CDT screening

Table of contents

Clause	Page Number
1. Purpose	3
2. Compliance context	3
3. Key information	3
4. Responsibilities	4
5. Definitions and abbreviations	4
6. Preparing for screening	4
7. Giving samples	5
8. Getting your results	7
9. Managing absences and operational issues	8
10. Ending your screening	10
11. Contacts and further information	11
12. Legislation and references	11
13. Related policies	11
14. Revision history	11

Participant procedure: CDT screening

1. Purpose

If you have CDT screening conditions on your registration, this procedure explains how to:

- prepare for screening
- give samples at the required times
- get your results
- manage any absences you need to take
- apply to decrease your screening.

If you are required to have any other blood test in the course of alcohol screening, this procedure explains how to give that sample.

2. Compliance context

You must comply with this procedure and:

- our *Alcohol screening policy*
- any alcohol screening conditions on your registration

If a condition on your registration is inconsistent with this procedure or the *Alcohol screening policy*, the condition prevails.

If you must attend other types of alcohol screening you must also comply with the relevant alcohol screening procedure.

We will decide all aspects of screening, including how often you need to attend. Our monitoring team will monitor your compliance.

3. Key information

We use CDT screening to monitor medical practitioners and students where there is a history of or concerns about alcohol misuse or dependence and whose conditions require them to only consume alcohol in a controlled and safe manner, as per the national guidelines. We do this to protect the public.

We understand that providing samples can be inconvenient, intrusive and expensive. However, negative CDT results are an effective way for us to know you are not affected by alcohol and can continue safely in practice or training.

4. Responsibilities

Parties responsible (Positions/Groups/Bodies)	Key responsibilities
NSW medical practitioners and students	comply with processes for CDT screening outlined in this procedure.
Monitoring team	monitor compliance with this procedure on behalf of the Council.
the Council	make decisions about a participant's progress and compliance with the <i>Alcohol screening policy</i> and this procedure.

5. Definitions and abbreviations

Term	Explanation
CDT	Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin – a screening test designed to identify excess consumption or harmful use of alcohol
Council / we / our	Medical Council of NSW
the guidelines / the national guidelines	Australian Guidelines: To reduce health risks from drinking alcohol , as revised from time to time
participant / you / your	a medical practitioner or student participating in CDT screening because a condition on their registration requires it
substance	any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> substance listed in Schedule 1 of the <i>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985</i> pharmacist only, prescription only or controlled drug medication as contained in Schedule 3, 4 or 8 of the Poisons Standard (SUSMP).

6. Preparing for screening

6.1 Timing

Start date	We will tell you when you need to start CDT screening.
Frequency	You must attend for CDT screening on the first Monday of the month.
Public holidays	You do not need to attend for scheduled screening on public holidays (as defined in the <i>Public Holidays Act 2010 (NSW)</i>). But you must attend the next business day after the holiday.

Extra screening	<p>We may require you to attend for extra screening if we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are concerned you are not complying with this procedure, the related policy or any alcohol screening conditions on your registration • believe you may have consumed alcohol excessively. <p>We will advise when you need to attend for extra screening. You may need to attend on a weekend.</p>
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6.2 What to avoid

Alcohol	You may only consume alcohol in a safe and controlled manner as per the guidelines.
Prescribed substances and over-the-counter preparations	<p>Some prescription medicines and over-the-counter preparations may cause abnormal screening results. It is your responsibility to avoid these while you are attending for screening.</p> <p>You must vigilantly check any prescribed medicines and over-the-counter preparations you take, including supplements and complementary medicines. You must review the ingredient list for alcohol and any substance that may cause abnormal results. If the exact ingredients are not listed or you are unsure, you must avoid the preparation.</p>
Some health and personal hygiene products, food and drink	<p>Ingredients in health and personal hygiene products, foods and drinks can cause abnormal results.</p> <p>Before you use a health or personal hygiene product or eat or drink anything, carefully check that it does not include alcohol or any other ingredients that may cause abnormal results. If you cannot find out its exact ingredients, you must avoid it.</p>

7. Giving samples

7.1 Collection centres

Council-approved collection centres	<p>You must attend a Council-approved collection centre for screening.</p> <p>Contact your nominated collection centre to confirm their opening hours and the time you need to attend.</p>
Alternative arrangements	<p>We must approve any alternative arrangements, and will only do so in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>If you cannot attend a Council-approved collection centre,</p>

you must:

- write to us explaining why
- propose an alternative collection arrangement.

These arrangements must meet all our collection and screening requirements, and can include collection by a local registered medical practitioner, nurse or pathology provider. You are responsible for any additional costs that may be incurred.

7.2 Sample collection and handling

Blood

All blood samples are collected and handled in line with all relevant standards of the Council's approved pathology provider and this procedure.

You must not handle your specimen at any time during the collection.

7.3 Forms

CDT screening request form

We will provide you with *CDT screening request* forms. You must complete the participant section of this form at every collection.

You must complete this form correctly or the pathology provider may not screen your sample.

On the form, you must write down:

- any substances (prescribed or otherwise) you consumed since your last sample collection
- which parties need your results, including us, your treating practitioner and your Council-appointed practitioner
- whether you want your results sent to you and any relevant group e.g. medical indemnity insurer.

Chain of custody

Every sample must have an accompanying chain of custody form.

You must ensure the collector completes this form, and you must sign it when the sample is collected.

We recommend you also keep your own sample collection records and ask the collector to sign them each time.

7.4 Costs, identification and privacy

Payment You are responsible for all collection and screening costs. You must pay the collection centre when you attend for screening. If you cannot pay when you attend, the centre cannot collect a sample. We will consider this a missed screen.

Screening is not eligible for a Medicare rebate.

Proof of identity You must show government-issued photo identification, such as a valid driver licence, identity card or passport, to the collector each time you give a sample.

Pseudonyms If we approve, you can use a pseudonym for screening. You must write to us and provide your:

- proposed pseudonym
- real name and photo identification
- consent to provide the pseudonym to all treating practitioners and Council-appointed practitioners who may receive your screening results.

The collector must verify your real identity each time you give a sample.

8. Getting your results

8.1 Recipients

Nominated parties The pathology provider will send your results to the parties nominated on your *CDT screening request* form.

You can also request a copy for:

- yourself
- any relevant group e.g. medical indemnity insurer.

8.2 Interpreting results

Interpreting CDT results All CDT results will be considered by the Council. We may ask the pathology provider for more information to interpret the result. A guide to result interpretation is included below.

Result	Interpretation
< 1.7%	Low
1.7 – 2.5%	Borderline
> 2.5%	Frankly elevated

- Unsatisfactory results** Your CDT result is unsatisfactory if your blood sample is:
- adulterated or substituted
 - otherwise inadequate or unsuitable.
- If you receive an unsatisfactory result, we will:
- ask you for a written explanation
 - use your explanation and information from the pathology provider to decide whether to take further action.

9. Managing absences and operational issues

9.1 Absences from screening

- All absences** You must follow these procedures when taking leave from practice. If you take leave, we may also:
- require your employer or accreditor to confirm your leave period
 - verify your absence from practice with Medicare.
- If you are absent and do not follow these procedures we may take further action, particularly if your absences follow a pattern.

- Planned absences** If you intend to take a planned absence from practice, you must:
- complete our [Leave from screening](#) form
 - ensure we receive this at least 5 business days before your planned absence.
- You must tell us if you plan to be absent on the date you must attend CDT. We will tell you when you need to attend for screening. We will use the date you attend to recalculate your next screening date.

You must also meet the following requirements:

Reason	Requirements
Planned medical procedure	<p>You must inform us of any planned medical procedure that may stop you from attending for screening.</p> <p>When you return from leave, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend for screening no later than the next business day • send us written confirmation of the procedure from the practitioner who performed it and any substance they advised, prescribed or administered, within 5 business days.

Unplanned absences

If you have an unplanned absence from CDT, you must meet the following requirements:

Reason	Requirements
Missed screen	<p>If you realise you have missed your screening, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify us immediately and explain why • provide us with evidence to support your absence within 5 business days • attend for screening no later than the next business day.
Illness	<p>If you are ill and cannot attend for screening, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify us within 24 hours of failing to attend • visit a medical practitioner who knows you are required to attend for screening and ask them to complete an Illness certificate form. <p>When you return from leave, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend for screening no later than the next business day • ensure we receive your Illness certificate form within 5 business days. <p>The certifying medical practitioner can only certify that you are ill for a maximum of 3 business days. If you are ill for more than 3 days you need to notify us and send us another completed Illness certificate form. We prefer the same medical practitioner completes the form each time.</p> <p>If you remain ill after that and are unable to screen you must contact us and provide supporting information from your treating practitioner about your illness, whether any substance has been advised, prescribed or administered, and when you will be able to return to screening. You must not practise during this time.</p>

9.2 Operational issues

Pathology provider issues

If the Council-approved collection centre cannot collect your sample, you must:

- tell us immediately
- attend for screening no later than the next business day
- send us the pathology provider’s written explanation for why they could not collect the sample, within 5 business days.

10. Ending your screening

10.1 Decreases

Decreasing your screening We will decide when you can end your CDT screening.

Reviews You can request a review of your screening requirements by writing to us and providing evidence to support this request.

Considerations We will decide whether to end your screening based on factors such as:

- your request and the evidence you provide
- your CDT screening results and other information from the pathology provider
- any other alcohol screening results
- reports from your Council-appointed practitioner, treating practitioner and any interview or hearing with us
- your compliance with the conditions on your registration
- your engagement with treatment
- your health
- any other information about your progress.

11. Contacts and further information

Drug screening contacts	Support services
Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML) Phone: 07 3121 4945 (Commercial services) Visit: www.qml.com.au	Doctors Health Advisory Service Phone: (02) 9437 6552 Visit: www.dhas.org.au
	Medical Benevolent Association of NSW Phone: (02) 9987 0504 Visit: www.mbansw.org.au
Council details Phone: 02 9879 2200 Visit: www.mcnsw.org.au Mail: PO Box 104, Gladesville, NSW 1675 DX: 22808 Gladesville	Beyond Blue Phone: 1300 22 4636 Visit: www.beyondblue.org.au
	Lifeline Phone: 13 11 14 Visit: www.lifeline.org.au
	Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Phone: 1300 222 222 Visit: www.aa.org.au
	Australian Doctors in Recovery Visit: https://www.idaa.org/sites/adr/

12. Legislation and references

Handbooks Our [Health Program Handbook](#) provides you with more information about the Health program

Fact sheets We have a range of [fact sheets](#) providing information about alcohol screening.

13. Related policies

Medical Council of NSW *Alcohol screening policy*

14. Revision history

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
N/A	N/A	N/A