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American Society of Addiction Medicine publishes drug testing white paper

CHEVY CHASE, MD, DECEMBER 12, 2013 – Today, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) released a white paper that reviews the science and current practice of drug testing. Though not a clinical guideline, the white paper does explore the wide range of applications for drug testing and its utility in a variety of medical and nonmedical settings. Furthermore, ASAM's white paper promotes the use of drug testing as a primary prevention, diagnostic, and monitoring tool in the management of addiction or drug misuse in medical practice.

ASAM's principal goal in publishing this drug testing paper is for today's improved drug testing technology to be far more widely used, particularly within health care. "Drug testing technology can and should play a larger role in helping to deter unhealthy drug use," offers ASAM's President, Dr. Stuart Gitlow. "It is also a critical tool to helping clinicians identify patients with substance use problems and to getting them the help they need to become and to stay drug-free."

The development of this white paper is, in part, in response to the growing epidemic of drug misuse and abuse in our society and the impact it is having on our nation's public health. As stated by Dr. Robert L. DuPont, chair of the white paper writing committee, "The appropriate use of drug testing, as highlighted in this paper, holds the promise of minimizing the adverse consequences of drug abuse, including addiction, crime, infectious disease, overdose, and death."

ASAM's Drug Testing White Paper can be accessed [here](#), on our website www.asam.org.

The [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) is a national medical specialty society of over 3,000 physicians and associated professionals. Its mission is to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, to educate physicians, and other health care providers and the public, to support research and prevention, to promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addictive disorders, and to establish Addiction Medicine as a specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers and consumers of health care services and the general public. ASAM was founded in 1954, and has had a seat in the American Medical Association House of Delegates since 1988.

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