

ALCOHOL AND ETG DRUG TESTING FACTS

Drug testing for the DC Superior Court is performed by PSA's Office of Forensic Toxicology Services

- EtG is a specific and unique substance that is formed in the body when alcohol is consumed.
- It can be detected in the urine specimen of someone who consumed alcohol as far back as 3 to 5 days prior to submitting for testing.
- Consumption of certain foods, or cough medications, such as Nyquil, which contain alcohol may result in detectable amounts of EtG and alcohol in the urine.
- Excessive contact with alcoholic mouth washes or hand sanitizers may also result in detectable levels of EtG in the urine.
- Individuals who have been counseled to abstain from consuming alcoholic beverages should use discretion when consuming foods that contain alcohol and abide by the recommended doses when using cough medicines which contain alcohol.
- The positive EtG cutoff level used in PSA's Lab is *10 times higher* than the levels which can be detected after exposure to moderate amounts of foods containing alcohol, alcoholic mouth washes, and alcoholic cough medicines.
- **Therefore, it is likely that a positive EtG result from the Lab is from alcohol consumption rather than food, mouth wash, hand sanitizer or alcoholic cough medicines.**