

METHCATHINONE AND CATHINONE

Clinical Information

MEDTOX Laboratories is excited to announce the addition of two new quantitative tests designed to detect the use of methcathinone and cathinone. Both compounds are structurally related stimulants similar to amphetamines. Cathinone is a natural alkaloid found in the east African and Middle Eastern shrub *Catha edulis* more commonly known as Khat. The plant material is typically chewed for its stimulating properties, and is most commonly abused by immigrant populations from regions where Khat use is endemic.

The structural derivative methcathinone is a purely synthetic compound also abused for its amphetamine-like properties. The drug is typically found in crystalline form and is snorted, smoked, or injected.

Both cathinone and methcathinone are classified as Schedule I Controlled Substances. The MEDTOX Laboratories' test for methcathinone and cathinone is a fully validated, quantitative test for detecting and measuring both compounds in urine with a detection limit of 1 ng/mL. The method utilizes a state of the art high performance liquid chromatography – tandem mass spectrometry technique (LCMSMS).

Test # 2793

Synonyms Khat

Category Hallucinogenic Stimulant

**Indication/
Use** No known legitimate use

Specimen Requirements

Specimen Unpreserved Urine

Volume 3 mL

Handling Ambient temperature for shipping and short-term storage (3 days); specimen may be refrigerated or frozen

Assay Parameters

Methodology Liquid Chromatography with Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

CPT code 82542

Interpretation Methcathinone
Reporting Limit: 1.0 ng/mL
Cathinone
Reporting Limit: 1.0 ng/mL