A CARLAT PSYCHIATRY REFERENCE TABLE

Available Drug Tests		
Test	Detection Time Frame	Notes
Urine	3–4 days	Most commonly used
Blood	6 to 12 hours	Can detect only recent drug use
Hair	7 days to several months	Expensive, but good for discovering use in more distant past
Saliva	24 hours	Convenient, patients can't adulterate or substitute
Sweat	7–14 days	Patient can remove patch
Breathalyzer (for alcohol only)	A few hours	Often used by patient's family to assess driving safety

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