

What is an invalid drug test? An invalid drug test is the outcome of a drug test for a urine sample that contains an endogenous substance at abnormal concentration, has abnormal physical characteristics, contains an unknown interfering substance (aka immunoassay interference), or an unknown contaminant that prevents the laboratory from obtaining a suitable valid result on the test.

What should you do if you receive an invalid drug test result? The Medical Review Officer (MRO) must question the donor of the specimen to find out whether the donor can give a credible reason why the sample could not be properly tested by the lab. For example, certain health and food supplements, prescription medications, or medical illnesses. Additionally, the MRO must consider if there is evidence of elapsed time and increased temperature which may cause an invalid when there's a lag time between a specimen being collected and tested at the lab, and higher outside temperatures. In most cases no such explanation is provided, and the MRO will recommend a new test to be ordered right away. Many times, they will also recommend that a new test be directly observed to eliminate the possibility that some substance is being added to the specimen that may have led to the invalid laboratory report.