

**VALLEY PAIN MANAGEMENT**  
**ROLAND F. CHALIFOUX JR. DO, PLLC**

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1001 W. Baltimore Street  
McMechen, W.V. 26040-1503  
Telephone: (304) 242-4004  
Fax: (304) 242-8004  
[www.valleypainmanagement.net](http://www.valleypainmanagement.net)

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Letter to the editor

Re: Centralized Urine Drug Collection Centers

Dear Editor,

In an effort to help reduce costs to the taxpayers of West Virginia while also improving medical treatment of those residents on Medicaid, I would like to propose that the state institute several “centralized” Urine Drug Centers which would receive Urine Drug Screens (UDS) from every doctor’s office and hospital in the state that performs UDS on its patients receiving Suboxone or Opioids or when doing initial UDS on new patients entering a practice as well as those patients being seen in West Virginia Emergency Rooms. Offices, hospitals, public health departments could institute a chain of custody, package the UDS, have them picked up by Fed Ex, and received by the regional Urine Drug Centers,

The goal is quite simple:

- 1) Centralize the UDS labs around the state and either man them with West Virginia employees or contract out to industry in order to save the state DHHR from spending extraordinary funds by paying so many independent labs, This would save millions.
- 2) Identify that West Virginia residents are in fact taking their Controlled Substances correctly and not taking illegal/illicit drugs.
- 3) Enforce the West Virginia legislature’s mandate that West Virginia residents on Medicaid have a responsibility to follow the law by not taking illegal drugs including cocaine, heroin, and other illegal substances.
- 4) Work to identify those residents on Medicaid to receive proper counseling should their UDS not be consistent with what should be expected. These individuals need to be identified and counseled to stay away from illegal substances especially as taxpayers are paying these recipients with their tax dollars.
- 5) If these Medicaid residents test positive 3 times then their state aid should be withdrawn. Bad behavior leads to consequences and every West Virginia resident on Medicaid needs to be responsible for their actions which currently they are not.
- 6) DHHR, law enforcement, and the medical community can actually work together by partnering with this UDS concept, something that to date, has not happened and should if

we are to ensure that the patients receiving these UDS are getting the best care possible either for their treatment for Substance abuse, chronic pain, or just healthy living.

As this state is facing financial challenges, I ask that every tax payer look at this and contact your State Legislator to work on adopting this concept as it is a WIN-WIN for all of us.

Sincerely

Roland F. Chalifoux Jr.,DO