DRUG IMPAIRMENT.COM

Course Information Packet

General Course Details	
Course Title	Serotonin Toxicity
Course Duration	1 hr
Initial Launch Date	4/27/26
Course Description	This course provides a comprehensive overview of serotonin toxicity from clinical, investigative, and forensic perspectives. Participants will learn how excessive serotonergic activity develops, how to recognize key clinical findings such as hyperreflexia and ankle clonus, and how polypharmacy involving medications like tramadol, trazodone, and SSRIs can increase risk. The course also explores how serotonin toxicity may mimic stimulant impairment in roadside or forensic settings and emphasizes the importance of integrating medication history, observed symptoms, toxicology results, and investigative context when interpreting real-world cases.
Learning Objectives	1. Define serotonin toxicity and explain how it differs from the historical term serotonin syndrome. 2. Describe the pharmacologic mechanisms that contribute to excessive serotonergic activity. 3. Recognize common clinical signs of serotonin toxicity, including altered mental status, autonomic instability, hyperreflexia, tremor, and ankle clonus. 4. Explain how polypharmacy and drug interactions involving medications such as SSRIs, tramadol, and trazodone can increase the risk of serotonin toxicity. 5. Differentiate serotonin toxicity from stimulant intoxication using clinical presentation, medication history, and neuromuscular findings. 6. Interpret serotonin toxicity in forensic and impaired driving contexts by integrating observed symptoms, toxicology results, medication history, and investigative findings.
Lessons	4
Quizzes	0

Format	Courses on DrugImpairment.com are offered in an asynchronous e-learning format. Each course consists of individual lessons and each lesson contains video-based instruction or a written learning assignment. Lessons are equipped with timers and activity monitoring for completion integrity. Certificates are granted upon completion of all lessons in a course and achieving satisfactory performance on any associated quizzes. Course learning hours are determined by run-time, with a minimum of 50 minutes required per credit hour.

Instructor Information	
Instructor Name	Amy Patton, PhD
Instructor Biography	Dr. Amy L. Patton is the Laboratory Director of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory, where she provides strategic leadership and operational oversight for multiple forensic disciplines serving jurisdictions across northern Louisiana. She has more than a decade of experience in forensic and clinical toxicology, with a professional background spanning state, private, and federal toxicology programs. Prior to her current role, she served as Technical Director of the Special Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory supporting the Department of Defense drug testing programs. She earned her Ph.D. in Forensic Sciences from Oklahoma State University, Center for Health Sciences, with research focused on emerging drugs and their analytical and interpretive challenges in toxicology. Dr. Patton holds a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of the Ozarks. She has been a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician since 2007. Dr. Patton has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and conference posters in the areas of forensic toxicology, cannabinoids, novel psychoactive substances, and analytical method development, and she regularly presents her work at national and international forensic science meetings. She is a certified ANSI National

	Accreditation Board (ANAB) Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Assessor and has participated in multiple forensic laboratory accreditation inspections and assessments. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), where she serves on the Novel Psychoactive Substances Committee, as well as The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT), the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), and the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division. Her professional interests include emerging drug trends, forensic toxicology method development, and the advancement of best practices in analytical toxicology.
ABFT Certified	Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
POST Instructor	Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
DRE	Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
DRE Instructor	Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒