## **Process Overview**

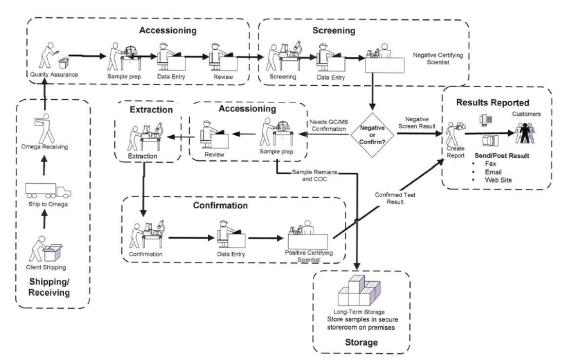
The four main steps involved in the laboratory processing of a drug test result are **Accessioning**, **Screening**, **Extraction**, and **Confirmation**.

Accessioning involves the initial processing of a sample into a laboratory's system. This includes verifying that the sample was sealed and shipped properly, assigning a random LAN (Laboratory Accessioning Number), and completing any additional data entry not provided by an electronic chain of custody system.

**Screening** involves an initial quick check for drugs of abuse. While Screening is a costeffective way to rule out drug usage on the majority of samples, a positive screen needs to be confirmed to be admissible in court. Any samples that are presumptively positive in Screening do require a secondary confirmation.

If a sample is presumptively positive in the **Screening** stage, more hair is pulled from the initial specimen and prepared for **Extraction**. In this stage, drugs are extracted from hair at a much lower concentration than in other methodologies (ex. urine or oral fluid), which is why hair drug screening is the most difficult methodology to perform.

**Confirmation** of any positive screening result is conducted via GC/MS, GC/MS/MS or LC/MS/MS. All presumptive positive samples are washed prior to confirmation as needed. The entire laboratory process from **Accessioning** to **Confirmation** is reviewed under both the CAP (College of American Pathologists) Hair designation and the accreditation to ISO / IEC 17025 standards.



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