



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BORKENSTEIN
COURSE

Center for Studies
of Law in Action

Benzodiazepines and Driving Impairment

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Benzodiazepines

Benzodiazepines are a frequently detected class of drugs in drug-impaired drivers. The chemistry and pharmacology of this class of drugs will be used to explain the clinical uses of this class of drug. Many benzodiazepines are metabolized to active metabolites while others are conjugated. Knowledge of the metabolism of benzodiazepines is important both for understanding the duration of effects as well as for understanding the analytical limitations of common methods used to detect these drugs in the laboratory. Sample stability and testing procedures will be discussed in this course. A review of key studies in the literature for commonly detected benzodiazepines will be performed, with an emphasis on studies related to effects of benzodiazepines on human performance and driving.