

SCRAM CONTINUOUS ALCOHOL MONITORING:

Frequently Asked Questions

- [How does SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring® \(SCRAM CAM®\) measure alcohol in sweat?](#)
- [What kinds of tests are conducted by the SCRAM CAM bracelet?](#)
- [Have SCRAM CAM test results been upheld in court challenges?](#)
- [Where in the criminal justice process is SCRAM CAM used?](#)
- [What types of clients are sentenced to use SCRAM CAM?](#)
- [How does a client get sentenced to wear the SCRAM CAM bracelet?](#)
- [How long are clients sentenced to wear the SCRAM CAM bracelet?](#)
- [How much does a person have to drink to register a positive test result on SCRAM CAM?](#)
- [How can someone test negative on a urine or breath test just hours before or after having a confirmed drinking event on SCRAM CAM?](#)
- [How much does SCRAM CAM cost and who pays for it?](#)
- [What is a Service Provider?](#)
- [What is RF/house arrest/home detention monitoring?](#)
- [Is everyone on SCRAM CAM monitored both for alcohol and home detention?](#)
- [When are authorities alerted to an alcohol or house arrest violation?](#)
- [Do alcohol testing results transmit to the data center continuously like house arrest data?](#)

Tampers, Interferants, and Obstructions

- [How does the SCRAM CAM bracelet identify if a client is tampering with the system?](#)
- [What happens to clients who are caught drinking or tampering with their bracelet?](#)
- [Can putting something between the bracelet and the leg block readings?](#)
- [Why is there a list of products containing alcohol that SCRAM CAM clients aren't supposed to use?](#)
- [What happens if a drink or a product containing alcohol is accidentally spilled on the bracelet?](#)
- [I read that hairspray or being in a hair salon can cause false positives. Is that true?](#)
- [Can kissing or having sex with someone who is drinking cause a false positive?](#)
- [Can non-alcoholic beer or cold medicine create a false positive? What about mouthwash?](#)
- [Can using hand sanitizers create a false positive?](#)
- [Are there lights, alarms or other signals on the bracelet that notify a client of an alert?](#)



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How does SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring® (SCRAM CAM®) measure alcohol in sweat?

One percent of the alcohol we consume is expelled through our skin in the form of insensible perspiration. The SCRAM CAM bracelet uses transdermal analysis, which means it samples and tests the insensible perspiration that is always on your skin. A pump inside the bracelet pulls a controlled sample of the wearer's insensible perspiration across a fuel cell to test for the presence of alcohol. The fuel cell inside the bracelet is just like the kind used in breath test devices to check for the presence of alcohol in the user's breath. With SCRAM CAM, instead of breathing into a system, the CAM bracelet takes a sample of the wearer's perspiration to test for the presence of alcohol.

What kinds of tests are conducted by the SCRAM CAM bracelet?

TRANSDERMAL ALCOHOL

Once every 30 minutes, the bracelet will sample the insensible perspiration on the client's skin in order to measure for alcohol consumption.

ANTI-TAMPER

The bracelet includes a number of features to ensure tests are accurate and from the proper subject. A temperature sensor and an infrared sensor that measure the reflective quality of the skin ensure the bracelet is in place and that nothing has been placed between the skin and the bracelet in an attempt to obstruct the alcohol testing. The bracelet also continuously conducts diagnostic tests to ensure the unit is functioning properly.

RF/LOCATION

SCRAM CAM includes an optional house arrest feature. When a client is sentenced to home confinement, during the predetermined times that the client must be home, the bracelet and base station communicate continuously to ensure that the client is within the required range. In turn, the base station is continuously communicating to a web-based application where reports and alerts are generated.

Have SCRAM CAM test results been upheld in court challenges?

Yes. The reliability and accuracy of both transdermal alcohol testing and the SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring technology have been upheld in court challenges across the United States, predominantly in probation or bond revocation hearings.

In addition, SCRAM CAM has been upheld in evidentiary hearings across the country, where the technology, testimony, and evidence met the standard of admissibility for scientific evidence in Daubert, Frye, and hybrid rulings.

Where in the criminal justice process is SCRAM CAM used?

- Pretrial supervision, as a condition of bond.
- As a supervision tool for clients sentenced to adult probation.
- As part of a specialty court program, such as a DUI, Domestic Violence, Drug Court, Veterans Court, or Treatment Court.
- As a condition of parole for clients released early due to jail or prison overcrowding.
- To support re-entry programs, where intensive community supervision is a condition of parole.
- As a sanction and assessment tool for misdemeanor underage drinking violators.

What types of clients are sentenced to use SCRAM CAM?

SCRAM CAM programs are being used to support treatment and to enhance supervision for:

- First-time and multiple-time drunk drivers.
- Domestic violence clients when alcohol is a contributing factor in their offense.
- Family Court, either to enforce a parent's sobriety or to assess the level of a parent's alcohol problem. Often Continuous Alcohol Monitoring is required as a condition of custody or visitation.
- Underage clients, as a method to assess and deter drinkers under the age of 21 from re-offending.
- Drug Court participants, who often turn to alcohol once they are being actively tested for drugs.
- Veterans Court participants, who are often dealing with addiction issues related to their military service.

How does a client get sentenced to wear the SCRAM CAM bracelet?

- A requirement to wear the bracelet is generally a result of a judge's ruling—either as a direct order to place a client on SCRAM CAM, or as an order for a client to enter a treatment or supervision program where Continuous Alcohol Monitoring is a component.
- Parole and probation may also assess a client and determine that SCRAM CAM is appropriate for the individual and make monitoring a component of their supervision program.
- A client may opt to use SCRAM CAM before trial in an effort to demonstrate to the court that they have taken their offense—and their alcohol misuse—seriously and are making a good faith effort to address that problem. SCRAM CAM can provide a client with an evidence-based way to demonstrate their sobriety to the court.

How long are clients sentenced to wear the SCRAM CAM bracelet?

To-date, sentences have ranged from two weeks for misdemeanor underage drinkers who were caught drinking on a college campus to ten years for a client convicted of killing a child in an alcohol-related traffic accident. The most common type of program requires individuals to complete an average of 90 consecutive days of compliance (with no drinking or tamper events) in order to successfully complete the CAM component of their program.

How much does a person have to drink to register a positive test result on SCRAM CAM?

The SCRAM CAM bracelet will detect very low-level drinking events. The fuel cell technology used to test for alcohol is the same fuel cell technology that's become an industry standard in breathalyzers. As such, the standard for confirming an alcohol consumption event, for either a breathalyzer or SCRAM CAM, is a minimum 0.02 Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). Should a client drink to a level lower than 0.02 BAC, while SCRAM CAM will likely register it, and a probation officer may opt to address that with the client, SCRAM Systems considers it to be a positive consumption violation once it surpasses the 0.02 BAC threshold.

How can someone test negative on a blood or breath test just hours before or after having a confirmed drinking event on CAM?

Breath and blood testing are accurate and reliable for determining the level of intoxication for on-the-spot alcohol testing, such as a roadside sobriety test. But the body metabolizes alcohol very quickly, and once the process is complete, there are virtually no trace elements left in the body to facilitate detection. While drugs leave residual indicators in the body that are fairly easy to test for hours, days, or even weeks later, alcohol does not. As such, long-term monitoring programs that test for alcohol consumption either randomly or even one to two times a day are very easy to circumvent.

How much does SCRAM CAM cost and who pays for it?

The client pays an initial installation fee that typically ranges from approximately \$50 to \$100. The average monitoring fee nationwide for Continuous Alcohol Monitoring only is around \$10-\$12 per day. The average monitoring fee nationwide for combined Continuous Alcohol Monitoring with house arrest monitoring is approximately \$13-\$15 per day. A number of factors are used when determining the daily monitoring fee in a particular area, including, but not limited to, the client's wage, court-related fees and fines, the monitoring period, and whether there is a service provider in that area.

In some jurisdictions, some or all of the fees for electronic monitoring services are passed along to the clients in what is known as an offender pay model, meaning that clients pay either all or a significant portion of the cost for the equipment and daily monitoring fees. If there are costs above and beyond what an individual can pay, then generally some type of government funding subsidizes the daily cost. In some instances, the local SCRAM Systems Authorized Service Partner will make a small portion of its SCRAM CAM inventory available to indigent clients at no cost.

What is a Service Provider?

It is common in community corrections for jurisdictions to outsource services such as drug and alcohol testing, polygraphs, classes, and GPS or home arrest monitoring. It is often more cost effective to outsource these functions than to support them with internal staff and resources. A SCRAM Systems Authorized Service Partner may focus only on providing SCRAM CAM program management or they may offer a menu of corrections services to the local courts.

What is RF/house arrest/home detention monitoring?

The SCRAM CAM bracelet includes an optional house arrest feature. **House arrest is not to be confused with GPS monitoring.** While GPS (Global Positioning System) functionality can be used to track the precise location of an individual, a vehicle or a cell phone, "house arrest" generally refers to home confinement. House arrest can also be referred to as "home detention," "curfew monitoring," "RF" (Radio Frequency), or the general category term of "electronic monitoring."

With house arrest, a person is confined to their residence on a pre-approved schedule that generally allows for some time outside the home for approved purposes (such as work, school, medical or legal appointments, or AA meetings) and restricts the client to the home during all other times. House arrest may also be used to confine an individual 24/7 at the discretion of the court.

Is everyone on SCRAM CAM monitored both for alcohol and home confinement?

No. SCRAM Systems estimates that between 10 and 15 percent of their monitored clients each day are on both house arrest and CAM.

When are authorities alerted to an alcohol or house arrest violation?

The alcohol testing data is generally uploaded once each day. Alerts are reviewed and confirmed and authorities are notified of any confirmed violations.

House arrest notifications can be customized by the supervising authority to either be real-time, where immediate notification (termed Priority Notification) of a violation is made to an assigned officer, or on the notification schedule of their choice.

Priority Notifications can be sent via fax, email, text or online alerts. The most common notification protocol is daily reporting, with the ability for the officer to log on any time to see a full event log for any individual client.

Do alcohol testing results transmit to the data center continuously like house arrest data?

No. Because of the size and complexity of alcohol testing data, and because all alerts are confirmed based on results from an entire drinking event, not just a single test result, the data is generally downloaded once each day. In some instances, for higher risk clients, an agency might require downloads of the alcohol data as often as six times a day.

Tampers, Interferants and Obstructions

How does the SCRAM CAM bracelet identify if a client is tampering with the system?

- A temperature sensor monitors a combination of the ambient temperature around the bracelet, and the temperature of the wearer, which verifies that the subject has not removed the bracelet or tried to do something to modify the body temperature and prevent “sweating.”
- An infrared (IR) sensor measures the reflective quality of the skin to ensure the bracelet is in place and that nothing has been placed between it and the skin in an attempt to obstruct the alcohol testing.
- The bracelet continuously conducts diagnostic tests to confirm the unit is functioning properly.

What happens to clients who are caught drinking or tampering with their SCRAM CAM bracelet?

Consequences for drinking or tampering with the bracelet are determined by the supervising agency. Generally, progressive sanctions are implemented, ultimately resulting with revocation of bond or probation, and possibly incarceration. The type of punishment for violations and how quickly it escalates to incarceration depends on the laws and programs of that client’s supervising agency, the severity of their offense and the orders of the court. Some programs deal very aggressively with any kind of tamper violation, while others may provide more leniencies with tamper violations in comparison to a confirmed drinking event.

Can putting something between the bracelet and the leg block readings?

At installation, the infrared (IR) sensor takes a series of baseline readings by sending an IR beam to the skin and measuring the reflective quality of what bounces back. If anything is placed between the bracelet and the skin or there’s any deviation to the baseline IR readings, SCRAM CAM will generate a Tamper Alert. Typically, SCRAM CAM is able to sense both the alcohol and the obstruction. SCRAM Systems has tested hundreds of products over the years and conducts ongoing field testing to ensure the bracelet is able to detect obstructions.

Why is there a list of products containing alcohol that SCRAM clients aren't supposed to use on or near the CAM bracelet?

Someone who drinks while wearing the SCRAM CAM bracelet may try to “mask” a drinking event by “spiking” the bracelet. This can be done by using a product that contains alcohol, then claiming the alert was caused by exposure to a product rather than drinking. To avoid these situations, clients sign an agreement at the time of installation that prohibits them from using products containing alcohol on or around the bracelet.

This does not mean the alcohol that is present will be interpreted as consumption. A product with alcohol may cause a “spike” because the readings will go up much faster than the body could ever absorb alcohol, and will also evaporate/burn off much faster than the body could ever metabolize alcohol. The process for confirming an event as actual consumption includes human analysis and the application of mathematical algorithms that ensure any confirmed drinking event was actually consumption, not environmental alcohol. So while the SCRAM CAM results analysis could distinguish between consumed and environmental alcohol, the client agreement prohibiting use of alcohol-containing products is intended to discourage this behavior. That type of tampering is considered a violation and is addressed with graduated sanctions by the court or monitoring authority.

What happens if a drink or a product containing alcohol is accidentally spilled on the bracelet?

SCRAM CAM could produce an alert for alcohol spilled on the bracelet; however, the system is designed to distinguish between exposure to alcohol around the bracelet and consumed alcohol that is eliminated through the skin. Spilling a drink or a product with alcohol (hairspray, perfume) creates a rapid spike much faster than the body would ever absorb alcohol; it also evaporates and burns off much faster than the body can metabolize alcohol. Our confirmation process includes an analysis that ensures that any confirmed event is consumed alcohol.

I read that hairspray or being in a hair salon can cause false positives. Is that true?

Just like exposure to any other product with alcohol, it is possible that the SCRAM CAM bracelet would generate an alcohol alert if exposed to hairspray. However, hairspray or being in a hair salon is no different than exposure to any other product containing alcohol. The system is designed to distinguish between environmental exposure to alcohol and actual consumed alcohol that has metabolized in the body. SCRAM Systems has tested exposure to hairspray and hundreds of other alcohol-containing products minimize the risk of false positives.

Can kissing or having sex with someone who is drinking cause a false positive?

No. The SCRAM CAM bracelet detects alcohol that is on the skin or around the bracelet, but the system is designed to distinguish between alcohol consumed and metabolized by the person wearing the bracelet and exposure to something around the skin and bracelet that contains alcohol.

Can non-alcoholic beer or cold medicine create a false positive? What about mouthwash?

Whether alcohol comes from cold medicine, mouthwash, kombucha, or other consumable products containing alcohol, because it is alcohol it may be detected by the bracelet. However, it would be difficult to consume these products in large enough quantities to produce a confirmable TAC curve. In fact, in a 2009 peer reviewed study of energy drinks containing alcohol, subjects consumed 6-8 energy drinks over the course of 8 hours and not a single positive alcohol alert was generated.

Can using hand sanitizers create a false positive?

No. The recommended and ordinary use of household cleaning products, hand sanitizer, perfumes, personal hygiene products, and lotions containing alcohol will not generate a confirmable alcohol alert. However, if applied directly to the bracelet or surrounding area, an alert may be generated. Much like spilling a beer directly on the bracelet, this type of external application of alcohol to the bracelet creates a rapid absorption spike much faster than the body can process alcohol and may evaporate and burn off much faster than the body can metabolize alcohol. Therefore, the detection will produce a distinctly different alcohol curve that will not be confirmed as consumption.

Are there lights, alarms or other signals on the bracelet that notify a client of an alert?

No. There is no indication of any kind, on either the SCRAM CAM bracelet or the base station, when there is an alert. The first indication of an alert will be at the data center, where all alerts are generated and analyzed before sending a confirmation to the supervising court or agency.