In Brief

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ORASURE, ROCHE INK DEAL ON TESTS

BETHLEHEM | OraSure Technologies Inc. announced an agreement Tuesday with Roche Diagnostics to automate its oral-based drug tests, a much quicker process than existing lab-based methods.

The agreement allows OraSure to use Swiss-based Roche’s assays — or screening procedures — that are compatible with automation.

OraSure makes Intercept, an oral-based substance-abuse test. Currently test results are submitted to laboratories, which OraSure said is more time-consuming.

The Bethlehem company said the agreement will put Intercept on par with urine-based substance-abuse tests, which are commonly automated.

The agreement among the companies requires clearance by the Food and Drug Administration.