



TITLE

**PHARMACIST ORDERING OF LABORATORY TESTS**

**SCOPE**

Provincial

**DOCUMENT #**

HCS-16

**APPROVAL AUTHORITY**

Alberta Health Services Executive Committee

**INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE**

January 31, 2013

**SPONSOR**

Vice President Clinical Support Services

**REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE**

November 17, 2016

**PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE AND NUMBER**

Not applicable

**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE**

November 17, 2019

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**NOTE:** The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

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## OBJECTIVES

- To ensure consistency within Alberta Health Services (AHS) Pharmacy Services for pharmacists when ordering laboratory tests.

## PRINCIPLES

AHS is committed to supporting and providing an environment in which pharmacists can practice to their full scope as defined in the *Health Professions Act* (Alberta) with respect to ordering laboratory tests.

## APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

## ELEMENTS

### 1. Authority

- 1.1 Pharmacists shall order laboratory tests according to standards as set out in the Alberta College of Pharmacists *Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians*.

### 2. Collaboration

- 2.1 In a team environment, pharmacists ordering laboratory tests will collaborate with the **most responsible health practitioner** or delegate.

- 2.2 The most responsible health practitioner retains overall responsibility for patient care.
- 2.3 Pharmacists shall establish a relationship with the patient, commensurate with the type of laboratory test required.
- a) Pharmacists who are not providing direct patient care may order laboratory tests only if sufficiently aware of the treatment plan for the patient and other patient specific factors that may influence the decision to adapt monitoring are known.
  - b) In addition, certain patient care areas may have policies that preclude ordering laboratory tests by those who are not members of the direct patient care team. In these cases, orders provided by pharmacists who are not members of the direct patient care team would not be accepted.
- 2.4 Where a pharmacist is consulted into the care of the patient, they shall do so in a manner similar to that of a consulting practitioner, and consistent with the AHS *Medical Staff Bylaws* and AHS *Medical Staff Rules*. The most responsible health practitioner will identify whether the pharmacist consultant is being requested to provide orders as suggestions (to be approved by the most responsible health practitioner before implementation), or to provide orders for direct implementation.

### 3. Pharmacist Ordering of Laboratory Tests

- 3.1 Pharmacists are required to have read and adhere to all ancillary policies pertaining to ordering laboratory tests.
- 3.2 Pharmacists shall order laboratory tests in the following circumstances:
- a) they possess a valid Practitioner ID Number from the Alberta College of Pharmacists;
  - b) they are registered with the laboratory service provider for their zone if applicable; and
  - c) they have completed a patient assessment and/or are sufficiently aware of the overall therapeutic plan for the patient appropriate to the type of laboratory test being ordered.
- 3.3 Where a pharmacist has ordered a laboratory test, they shall ensure that there is a documented plan for follow-up of results, including a clearly articulated mechanism whereby follow-up by the ordering pharmacist is available should there be an issue arising from the order or the results.

### 4. Documentation

- 4.1 Pharmacists shall ensure clinical documentation is maintained as per the AHS Pharmacy Services *Clinical Documentation Policy* and Procedure.

- 4.2 In addition to these requirements, the pharmacist shall ensure documentation of:
- a) the laboratory test(s) ordered; and
  - b) the rationale for the laboratory test ordered.
- 4.3 Pharmacists shall enter the laboratory test(s) directly into the patient's electronic **health record** (if applicable) or sign the laboratory order in the patient's health record as the prescriber.

## DEFINITIONS

**Health record** means the Alberta Health Services legal record of the patient's diagnostic, treatment and care information.

**Most responsible health practitioner** means the health practitioner who has responsibility and accountability for the specific treatment/procedure(s) provided to a patient and who is authorized by Alberta Health Services to perform the duties required to fulfill the delivery of such a treatment/procedure(s) within the scope of his/her practice.

## REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - *Clinical Documentation Policy (Pharmacy Services) (#14.02.01)*
  - *Clinical Documentation Procedure (Pharmacy Services) (#14.02.01.01)*
  - *Medical Staff Bylaws*
  - *Medical Staff Rules*
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
  - *Government Organization Act (Alberta)*
  - *Health Professions Act, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Profession Regulation (Alberta)*
  - *Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians (Alberta College of Pharmacists)*

## VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action Taken
November 17, 2016	Revised
<a href="#">Click here to enter a date</a>	Optional: Choose an item