

Health Professional Act - BYLAWS

Schedule F

Part 9 – Ordering, Receiving, and Interpreting Laboratory Tests Standards, Limits and Conditions

Application

This Part applies to full pharmacists, and sets out the standards, limits, and conditions for ordering laboratory tests and receiving and interpreting the results.

When a pharmacist orders a laboratory test, and receives and interprets the results, they will do so in accordance with these standards, limits, and conditions, as well as the Code of Ethics; Conflict of Interest Standards; the Indigenous Cultural Safety, Humility and Anti-Racism Standard; and all legislation, regulations, bylaws, and policies affecting pharmacy practice in British Columbia.

STANDARDS

Competencies, Knowledge, and Professional Ethics

- 1) A pharmacist is accountable for their decision to order a laboratory test, and receive, and interpret test results.
- 2) A pharmacist must only order a laboratory test if:
 - a) the pharmacist has a professional relationship with the client;
 - b) the test is ordered for the purpose of providing a service within the “practice of pharmacy” as defined in the [Pharmacists Regulation](#);
 - c) the pharmacist has the education, training, and competence necessary to correctly order the test and interpret the test results; and
 - d) the pharmacist has adequate information and understanding of the client’s current health status to determine:
 - i) when the test is appropriate for the client given their current health status;
 - ii) which test to order in the specific situation;
 - iii) how the test results should be interpreted in the context of the client information gathered through the pre-ordering assessment, and
 - iv) what actions should be taken based on the test results.
- 3) A pharmacist must advise the client to seek medical attention from an appropriate health care professional when there is a gap in the pharmacist’s knowledge and competencies, or the tests are beyond the legislated scope of practice of pharmacists.
- 4) A pharmacist must obtain the client’s or client’s representative’s¹ informed and voluntary consent (or implied consent if obtaining expressed consent is not feasible) before ordering a laboratory test.
- 5) A pharmacist must discuss with the client or client’s representative the distribution of results to other health care professionals within the client’s circle of care.
- 6) A pharmacist must advise the client when the laboratory test to be ordered is not covered by the Medical Services Plan or there otherwise may be a direct cost to the client for the test if the pharmacist orders it.
- 7) A pharmacist must act in the best interests of the client when ordering a laboratory test. When ordering a laboratory test, a pharmacist must avoid situations that present a conflict of interest that compromises or appears to compromise professional independence, judgment, or integrity.

Assessment

- 8) Before ordering a laboratory test, a pharmacist must obtain relevant client information, which may include a review of:
 - a) the client record²;
 - b) the client’s PharmaNet record; or
 - c) information provided by the client or client’s representative.
- 9) A pharmacist must review or conduct a client assessment to support their laboratory test ordering and subsequent decisions. The assessment must include the following as feasible and applicable, but is not limited to these factors:
 - a) demographic information;
 - b) medical conditions;
 - c) medication history;
 - d) signs and symptoms;
 - e) allergies and intolerances;
 - f) risk factors;
 - g) pregnancy and lactation status;
 - h) physical assessment;

¹ “client’s representative” means “patient’s representative” as defined in section 64 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws.

² “client record” means, as applicable, the patient record referred to in section 11 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F Part 1 - Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice or section 12 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F Part 2 - Hospital Pharmacy Standards of Practice, or the resident record referred to in section 13 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F Part 3 - Residential Care Facilities and Homes Standards of Practice.

- i) laboratory or other diagnostic test results, if available;
 - j) client needs, values, and preferences; and
 - k) any other relevant information.
- 10) A pharmacist must make reasonable efforts to review the client's available and relevant previous laboratory test results before ordering a laboratory test.
- 11) When ordering and receiving a laboratory test, and receiving a test result, the pharmacist must take the appropriate steps to ensure the assessment is conducted in a manner that the client confirms as suitably private.

Follow-up and Monitoring

- 12) A pharmacist who orders a laboratory test must ensure they have a system in place and available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to ensure the appropriate follow-up of ordered laboratory testing. This must include arrangements to respond to and act upon any critical laboratory results that are reported.
- 13) A pharmacist must ensure there are procedures in place for receiving critical test results that have been ordered. The procedures should include after-hours and emergency contact information to ensure the lab operator's ability to contact the pharmacist, or the predetermined alternate, in the event of a critical laboratory test result.
- 14) Test results must be received in a manner that maintains the client's privacy.
- 15) A pharmacist must interpret the test results and take appropriate action based on the results of the test. Appropriate action may include, but is not limited to:
- a) establishing or modifying the client's care plan;
 - b) discussing the results with the client or client's representative;
 - c) discussing the results with other health care professionals within the client's circle of care; and
 - d) arranging for another qualified health professional to interpret the test results in the event that the ordering pharmacist is not available.
- 16) Upon receipt of an ordered test result, the pharmacist must interpret and consider the result in establishing or modifying the client's care plan and communicate the result and associated plan or plan modifications to the client in a timely manner.
- 17) A pharmacist must ensure appropriate follow-up of abnormal or critical test results, in consultation with the primary health care professionals as appropriate, including promptly forwarding the results to the client's primary health care professional, if available. If the client does not have a primary health care provider, a pharmacist should, as appropriate for the situation, advise the client to obtain emergency or other medical care, and advise the client about available health care resources.
- 18) When asked by the client to interpret tests ordered by another health care professional, the pharmacist must redirect the client to the ordering health care professional or to another health care professional who understands the context in which the test was ordered, unless the test results are pertinent to a pharmacy service being provided by the pharmacist.

Documentation

- 19) A pharmacist who orders and receives the results of a laboratory test must document and retain a record of the following in a timely manner based on clinical judgement:
- a) client information, including personal health number (PHN), if available;
 - b) acknowledgment of informed consent;
 - c) the test ordered and the reason for ordering it;
 - d) the name of the pharmacist ordering the test;
 - e) the date the test was ordered;
 - f) the results of the test and the date they were received;
 - g) the practitioner to whom the results were forwarded (if at all).
- 20) The pharmacist must document any decision, action, and/or recommendation as a result of interpreting the test results in the client record.

Notification

- 21) A pharmacist who has ordered a laboratory test must ensure that documentation regarding tests ordered and the associated results are communicated as soon as is reasonably possible to other health professionals, when the pharmacist determines it to be in the client's best interest or when notification is directed by the client.

LIMITS

- 22) A pharmacist must not order laboratory tests for themselves or a family member, except in an emergency situation and when another pharmacist or practitioner is not readily available. If ordering in this situation, the pharmacist must document the emergency situation, including their relationship to the client.

CONDITIONS

None.