



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

# Standard of Practice:

## Requisitioning Laboratory Tests



### Introduction

The intent of this standard is to advise Members of the requirements for requisitioning the collection of specimens from patients by an Ontario specimen collection centre and the performance of tests on that specimen in an Ontario laboratory. This standard applies to requisitioning the collection of specimens and laboratory testing as permitted under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990*.

### Definitions

**Critical Value:** for the purpose of this standard critical value is a laboratory test result that is communicated by the medical laboratory to the naturopathic doctor indicating a result that shows a marked deviation from reference ranges, with no previous clear indication to the laboratory from the naturopathic doctor that these are expected deviations. Results of this nature may indicate a significant risk of a life-threatening event.

## 1. Competency

*The Member has the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to requisition the collection of specimens and laboratory tests safely, ethically and competently.*

### Performance Indicators

Prior to requisitioning the collection of specimens and laboratory tests, the Member:

- fulfills all requirements for maintenance of competence for performing the procedure (e.g., continuing education, College's Quality Assurance Program)

## 2. Requisitioning Laboratory Tests

*The Member requisitions the collection of specimens and laboratory testing in accordance with the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990 .*

### Performance Indicators

The Member requisitions the collection of specimens and laboratory testing within the context of the Naturopathic Doctor-patient relationship.

The Member:

- informs the patient:
  - of the reason the test(s) is being ordered;
  - of the significance of the test(s);
  - that the laboratory test(s) is not OHIP insured; and
  - that they will be required to pay the cost of the test(s) and any associated fee(s) (e.g.

requisition/collection fees from the medical laboratory) incurred by the naturopathic doctor as well as an estimate of the total anticipated cost.

- ensures that requisitions for the collection of specimens and laboratory testing are completed on the appropriate form and include all required information to ensure accurate processing;
- ensures that requisitions for the collection of specimens and laboratory testing include any expected deviations that would be a critical value test result;
- ensures that the samples and/or laboratory tests being requisitioned are appropriate and necessary for the specific patient, taking into consideration:
  - the patient's health history;
  - a clinical assessment including but not limited to a medical history, physical examination and other relevant diagnostic testing or investigations; and
  - the differential diagnosis.
- requisitions the collection of specimens and laboratory testing in accordance with the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990*;
- provides current contact information to the laboratory so that critical test results can be communicated both during and after office hours;
- provides the patient with appropriate preparatory instructions with regard to the specimen collection and laboratory test (e.g. fasting; requirements for specific time of last dose of medication);

### 3. Fees

*The Member ensures fair and ethical fees and billing practices.*

#### Performance Indicators

In addition to the College's Standard of Practice for Fees & Billing, the Member:

- may charge a reasonable fee for collecting non-blood specimens to be sent for laboratory testing, and itemize it on an invoice as "collection of specimen";
- may charge the patient for the cost of the test and any associated fee(s) (e.g. requisition/collection fees from the medical laboratory) incurred by the naturopathic doctor;
- does not charge a mark-up on the cost of the test and any associated fee(s) (e.g. requisition/collection fees from the medical laboratory) incurred by the naturopathic doctor;
- may charge a reasonable fee for the analysis of laboratory test results if it is done outside of a patient visit/consultation.

### 4. Test Result Management

*The Member ensures appropriate follow-up on test results.*

#### Performance Indicators

The Member:

- ensures that a system is in place to ensure appropriate follow-up on lab tests results;
- is available or accessible or has alternative arrangements in place to respond and act upon any critical value test results that are reported;
- informs the patient of the expected timeframe for the laboratory test results, and if and when they will contact the patient about the results;
- takes appropriate action if the result of a laboratory test that they order is outside the expected or normal range;
- refers a patient to a Physician or Registered Nurse in the Extended Class where a laboratory test result is a

critical value test result.

## 5. Record Keeping

*The Member maintains records specific to laboratory testing.*

### Performance Indicators

In addition to the College's Standard of Practice for Record Keeping, the Member will document in the patient chart:

- requisitions for the collection of specimens from patients by an Ontario specimen collection centre and the performance of tests on that specimen in an Ontario laboratory;
- results for all requisitioned laboratory tests;
- discussions with patients explaining the results of the laboratory tests; and
- any action taken or initiated in response to a lab test result.

### Related Standards & Guidelines

Collecting Clinical Samples  
Communicating a Diagnosis  
Consent  
Emergency Preparedness  
Fees and Billing  
Infection Control  
Internal Examinations  
Point of Care Testing  
Record Keeping

### Legislative Framework

[General Regulation](#)

[Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990](#)

[Naturopathy Act, 2007](#)

[Professional Misconduct Regulation](#)

[Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#)

**Guideline C-4: The Management of Biomedical Waste in Ontario (2009)**

**Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories. Guideline for Reporting Laboratory Test Results**

### **Disclaimer**

*In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of Naturopathic Doctors, the legislation shall govern.*