



## Capital Health

### Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**T0:** Capital Health HSM, staff, physicians, residents

**From:** Dr. J.G. Heathcote, District Chief, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
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**Subject :** Capital Health policies with regard to collection of blood specimen diagnostic testing.

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The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (DPLM) has become aware that Capital Health staff, including physicians and residents, are engaging in the collection of blood specimens by venipuncture, as a convenience, on co-workers, friends and family. Since these collections are not performed as part of the staff members role at Capital Health, they are by definition “outpatient” collections, and the staff member is functioning as an independent phlebotomist.

Outpatients collected at Capital Health must be STAR registered following Capital Health policy [CH 07-040 Criteria for STAR Registration](#). This registration is then used to facilitate the ordering of laboratory tests and ensures the appropriate reporting of results. Individuals collecting specimens at non-Capital Health facilities or in patient homes, in accordance with Accreditation Canada standards, must enter into a legal contract (agreement) with Capital Health. This agreement ensures that individuals and businesses are aware of the requirements for specimen collection and transportation, that all specimens are traceable back to the collector and that the results are reported to the requestor. If the specimens do not meet the criteria as outlined in the agreement, they may be rejected upon receipt.

Blood specimen collection requirements, including the requirement to have an agreement in place with Capital Health, are linked to the [CDHA CC 85-079 Venipuncture for Blood Specimen/Blood Culture Collection](#) policy, which is the overriding document guiding the practice of blood specimen collection. Requirements to ensure laboratory specimens are acceptable for diagnostic testing are outlined in the Capital Health policy [CDHA CC 85-016 Laboratory Specimen Acceptance and Rejection for Diagnostic Testing](#) . Additional information around requirements can be found on the DPLM website on the following WebPages:

- <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine/blood-collection-services/private-phlebotomy>
- <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine/specimen-collection-requirements/collection>

Please note that at this time the Independent Phlebotomy agreement process is in review and Capital Health is not entering into new contracts.