



## *memorandum*

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To: NSHA Central Zone Physicians, Health Service Managers (Inpatient, Outpatient, and Emergency Dept)  
Nova Scotia Laboratory Managers

From: Dr. Bassam A. Nassar (Chief of Service, Division of Clinical Chemistry), Dr. Amy Lou (Clinical Biochemist), Mr. Randy Veinotte (Esoteric Laboratory Manager)

Date: December 18, 2015

Message: **Changes to Barbiturate Testing in Urine Drug Screening**

Effective January 11, 2016, the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA)–Central Zone Division of Clinical Chemistry will discontinue barbiturate testing in our Drugs of Abuse (DoA), urine drug screening panel.

Barbiturate testing for NSHA Central Zone will be referred to Hospitals In–Common Laboratory (HICL) in Ontario upon approval by our Clinical Chemistry Medical Staff. All laboratories outside NSHA Central Zone are requested to refer samples directly to HICL. The cost of testing at HICL is \$16.00 per test.

Please contact Dr. Nassar at 902 473 2225 (e–mail: Bassam.Nassar@nshealth.ca), Dr. Amy Lou, at 902 473 1528 (e–mail: Amy.lou@nshealth.ca) or Ms. Faye Lively at 902 473 6387 (e–mail: Faye.lively@nshealth.ca), if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention.

CC. Dr. J. Godfrey Heathcote, Ms. Shauna Thompson, Ms. Faye Lively