



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine memorandum

To: Physicians, Health Service Managers and Nurse Practitioners, Nova Scotia Health Authority Laboratories

From: Dr. J.G. Heathcote, Chief, Central Zone Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Anita Muise, Technical Manager, Laboratory Client and Support Centre

Date: January 14, 2016

Message: Cancellation of laboratory test requests prior to collection as a result of a utilization rule.

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) utilizes principles of Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (EBLM) to drive changes in ordering practices for a number of laboratory tests. These initiatives align with specific and general recommendations of the Choosing Wisely Campaign in Canada.

In an effort to further improve patient care and efficiencies, Central Zone PLM is now able to identify those test requests that will be cancelled as a result of a utilization rule at the point of patient registration and test order. **Effective February 8, 2016**, Central Zone PLM will discontinue the collection of blood specimens for these requests. If a patient presents at Blood Collection Services and the test cancelled is the only request on the requisition, the patient will be advised that the collection will not be performed and they should contact their healthcare provider. A cancellation report will be distributed to the authorized requestor indicating that the cancellation is the result of a utilization rule.

Initiating cancellation prior to collection avoids the costs associated with specimen collection and rejection and may prevent the patient from undergoing unnecessary venipuncture. Information on Laboratory Utilization, Cancellation Rules and Repeat Testing Interval Guidelines can be found on the Central Zone website: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine/specimen-collection-requirements/laboratory-utilization>. Questions related to a specific utilization rule should be directed to the Division performing the test.