

Final Approval: Dr. Irene A Sadek

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in accordance with following the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations, creates guidelines to improve the appropriateness of tests ordered within NSHA. The process involves revising and updating medical directives and incorporating the latest evidence-based practices. The following list (non-inclusive) guides customers on the reasons that certain ordered tests are cancelled.

These tests are automatically cancelled if ordered within the utilization time frame or if previously positive within the timeline specified.

Clinical Chemistry	
Laboratory Test	Utilization rules
<i>Cancellation rules for the tests below may be overridden if clinically indicated by the physician writing "do not cancel" next to the specific test requested. Synchronous rules apply i.e. on cancellation, the sample is not taken by the phlebotomist</i>	
Alpha Fetoprotein Tumor Marker (AFP)	8 weeks and the patient's location is not the Cancer Centre locations
Ferritin	8 weeks and the patient's location is not Medical Day Unit (MDU)
Free thyroxine (FT4)	6 weeks
LDH	Clinical information required next to the test written (between brackets)
Prostate specific antigen (PSA)	12 weeks and the patient's location is not the Cancer Centre locations
Serum Protein Electrophoresis (SPE)	25 days -
Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)	6 weeks
Urine Protein Electrophoresis	Only done on approved research samples
Vitamin B12	12 weeks
Vitamin D	One year, where the previous result was between 75 and 250. The IWK client is exempt from this rule.
<i>Contact the Esoteric laboratory at (902)-473-6664 for overriding the cancellation for the three tests listed below.</i>	
Hemoglobin A1C	80 days
IgFLC-Immunoglobulin Free Light Chains	25 days Only done when requested by a Hematopathologist, Nephrologist, or a known monoclonal patient.
Immunoglobulins	25 days.

Hematology- General	
Laboratory Test	Utilization rules
Hereditary Hemochromatosis	Cancelled if previous report exists.
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate	Requests for ESR testing will be cancelled except for those from Emergency departments, in-patients, same day encounter hospital clinics, or those for which clinical indication/approved clinical stamp is included on the requisition.
Hematology-Transfusion Medicine	
Type and Screen	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 96 hours.

Microbiology	
For further detail about a microbiology test, consult the Provincial Microbiology User's Manual , Microbiology Serology Test Codes , and Microbiology Lavender Tube Centrifugation Job Aid	
Laboratory Test - Bacteriology	Utilization rules
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (CT) and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (GC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancelled if specimens collected within 5 days (same source) of the previous sample. 2. Cancelled if previously positive within 4 weeks.
Cystic Fibrosis Culture	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 72 hours.
Genital Smear for Vaginosis	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 7 days of collection.
Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) Surveillance	Cancelled if positive in the last 90 days.
Ova and Parasite Examination	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 18 hours
Stool Culture	1 per 5 days as maximum. Exception for Public Health Services which are unrestricted (often looking for negatives to allow return to work etc). Use comment in column 3.
Vancomycin resistant <i>Enterococcus</i> (VRE) Surveillance	Cancelled if positive in the last 90 days

Laboratory Test - EIA	Utilization rules
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> Antigen Screen by EIA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancelled if PCR previously positive within 14 days 2. For negative NAAT tests, reject tests within 6 days. (IDSA) 3. Rejected if formed stool received. 4. Reject for patients under 1 year of age with the comment - : "Specimen not processed. Up to 40% of children < 1 year of age are colonized with <i>Clostridium difficile</i>. Positive results in this age group are difficult to interpret, and other pathogens (e.g. viral) should be excluded."
Parasite EIA	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 30 days
Laboratory Test - Serology	Utilization rules
Immunology Vasculitis Panel Anti-Nuclear Antibody (ANA) Panel Miscellaneous Immunopathology Tests	Detailed information found here-
Vasculitis Panel	Cancelled if Vasculitis Panel (Anti-GBM, Anti-MPO and Anti-Proteinase) is ordered on the same patient within 1 month of a previous Vasculitis Panel order.
AMA-M2	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 6 months.
Nuclear Antibody (ANA)	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 2 weeks (14 days) of a previous result on the same patient.
Anti-Cardiolipin	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 1 month.
Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide (Anti-CCP)	Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide (Anti-CCP) cannot be reordered within 90 days of a previous result on the same patient.
Anti-LKM1 Antibody	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 6 months.
Anti-Smooth Muscle Antibody (Anti-Sm)	Cancelled if previously ordered on the same patient within 6 months.
Anti-Tissue Transglutaminase IgA (Anti-TTG)	Anti-Tissue Transglutaminase IgA (Anti-TTG) cannot be reordered within 180 days of a previous result on the same patient.
Cytomegalovirus IgG	CMV IgG Antibody cannot be ordered if a previously positive immune status has been determined on the same patient

Final Approval: Dr. Irene A Sadek

Laboratory Test - Serology	Utilization rules
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> serology (H PYLORI)	HPYL serology no longer performed Stool antigen testing is the preferred testing method. If active infection is suspected please submit a fresh stool in a sterile container.
Hepatitis C Virus Screen	Screen cancelled if a previous positive report exists and a Hepatitis C Viral Load automatically ordered
MUMPS IgM Antibody	The sensitivity of Mumps IgM for the diagnosis of acute infection is low and will only be performed at the request of Public Health.
Parvovirus (PARVG)	1. Cancelled if ordered on male patients or females <15 or >50 2. Cancelled if previously positive for Parvo IgG
Parvovirus (PARVM)	Parvovirus B19 IgM is cancelled if previously positive for Parvovirus IgG.
Rubella IgG (RUBG)	Cancelled if a previously positive immune status has been determined on the same patient
Toxoplasma IgG Antibody Screen (TOXOG)	Toxoplasma IgG Antibody Screen cannot be ordered if a previously positive immune status has been determined on the same patient.

Laboratory Test - PCR	Utilization rules
CMVPCR	Cancelled if tested in previous 7 days.
Hepatitis B Virus Viral Load	1. Cancelled if Hepatitis B Surface Antigen status negative or unknown. 2. Cancelled if tested within previous 3 months.
Hepatitis C Virus Viral Load	Cancelled if Hepatitis C Virus antibody screen is negative.
Hepatitis C Virus Genotype	1. Cancelled if Hepatitis C Virus Viral Load is negative. 2. Cancelled if tested within previous 6 months.
HIV Viral Load	Cancelled if not ordered by Infectious Disease Specialist.
HIV Immunoblot	HIV confirmatory immunoblot not performed if the patient was previously confirmed positive for HIV.