



memorandum

To: **Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Health Service Directors**

From: NSH Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Continuing Care

Date: December 4, 2020

Message: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine In-home Blood Collection Service – Change of Referral Process.

A patient's physician or nurse practitioner will now initiate a request for NSH Pathology and Laboratory Medicine In-home Blood Collection Service through the **NSH Blood Collection Referral process** and no longer use the NSH Continuing Care Referral process.

Patients (12 years old or older) eligible to be referred for this service are as follows:

- Housebound and unable to go out of the home; or
- Where not providing blood collection in the home would cause undue hardship to the patient. The hardship could be physical, medical, financial or other.
- Patients who fit the above criteria and collection is by venipuncture. Continue to refer all collections via lines, catheters, ports, etc. to Continuing Care.

The NSH In-Home Blood Collection Referral process requires:

- Patients meet the eligibility criteria for in home collection
- Submission of a completed [In-Home Blood Collection Referral form](#)
- Submission of a completed laboratory requisition,
- Indication on the laboratory requisition of the timeframe requested for testing and if recurrent collections are required.
- Referral form and requisition faxed together to the appropriate zone fax #
 - Western Zone: 902-527-2994
 - Northern Zone 902-752-1931
 - Eastern Zone: 902-567-7947
 - Central Zone: 902-422-0893

Note: The referral form is in the process of being added to the Electronic Medical Record (EMRs) systems and communication will be sent when available early 2021.

Referred patients will be contacted by the local blood collection service to book an appointment for the in-home visit. Patients not eligible for in home collection can access NSH outpatient blood collection by booking an appointment at their local blood collection clinic. Information on appointment booking, including on line booking, is available at <http://www.nshealth.ca/blood-collection>.