

INFOBulletin

Keeping health care providers informed of payment, policy or program changes

To: Nurse Practitioners, Community Laboratories, Hospitals, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

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Re: Laboratory Tests Ordered by Nurse Practitioners

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1. Background

Effective July 1, 2011, Registered Nurses with Extended Class (RN(EC)), known as Nurse Practitioners (NPs), will have broader authority to order laboratory tests. The laboratory test list (Appendix C) for nurse practitioners will be removed from the LSCCLA, Regulation 682. As of July 1, 2011, NPs will have the ability to order any laboratory test, in any setting. This includes both insured tests listed in the [Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services](#), and any uninsured laboratory tests (e.g. uninsured vitamin D or uninsured prostate specific antigen).

2. Tests Ordered by NPs as Insured Services

Nurse Practitioners will have the ability to order from the full range of laboratory tests available to patients. Given that NPs will no longer be restricted to certain laboratory tests they are authorized to order from laboratories. Amendments have been made to the HIA, Regulation 552 to provide that laboratory tests ordered by nurse practitioners will be insured services, as of July 1, 2011. The schedule of tests in Regulation 552 indicating which tests are insured when ordered by NPs is no longer necessary.



In the hospital setting, all laboratory tests will be an insured hospital service when ordered by nurse practitioners for both outpatients and inpatients of the hospital. For community laboratories, all tests ordered by nurse practitioners will be insured services when they are also listed in the [Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services](#).

Nurse practitioners are to continue to use the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) [Laboratory Requisition Form](#) to order laboratory tests from community laboratories. No change has been made to this form. Nurse practitioners will continue to be required to provide their OHIP identification number when ordering a laboratory test.

3. Amendments to the [Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, Regulation 682](#), and the [Health Insurance Act, Regulation 552](#)

The amendments to the [Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, Regulation 682](#):

- o Revoke Appendix C of the Regulation (the list of laboratory tests from which nurse practitioners are authorized to order); and
- o Remove references to Appendix C.

The amendments to the [Health Insurance Act, Regulation 552](#):

- o Revoke Schedule 22 of the Regulation (the list of laboratory tests that are insured when ordered by nurse practitioners);
- o Allow nurse practitioners to order any laboratory test, for both outpatients and inpatients of the hospital, as an insured hospital laboratory service; and
- o Allow nurse practitioners to order any laboratory test from community laboratories, as an insured service, provided the test is also listed in the [Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services](#).

4. Links to Amendments

Amendments to the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*, Regulation 682:

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2011/elaws_src_regs_r11215_e.htm

Amendments to the *Health Insurance Act*, Regulation 552:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2011/elaws_src_regs_r11217_e.htm