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Bulletin 230905 — Updates to the 2023–24 Community Access Pilot

New: Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibodies (ANCA) and Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibodies (ACPA) testing now available at community labs

To: Ordering Clinicians (Medical Practitioners, Registered Nurses in the Extended Class, as applicable pursuant to Ontario Regulation 45/22 under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*)

Category: Physician Services, Primary Health Care Services, Registered Nurse in the Extended Class

Written by: Laboratories & Diagnostics Branch, Health Programs and Delivery Division

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Overview

The Community Access Pilot for Laboratory Services currently extended for the 2023-24 fiscal year will now include **Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibodies (ANCA)** and **Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibodies (ACPA)** testing to the

updated list of services. Please refer to Table 1.

These tests are available to patients at no-cost through community laboratories as of September 25, 2023

ANCA testing

ANCA (Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibodies) testing is used to diagnose ANCA-associated vasculitides – rare but serious life and organ threatening conditions.

The Community Access Pilot will now include two tests to detect ANCA:

Proteinase 3 (PR3) and **Myeloperoxidase (MPO)** when performed using a high-quality, antigen-specific immunoassay method of ANCA detection for patients in whom there is clinical suspicion of ANCA-associated vasculitis, as per the Canadian Vasculitis Network Guidelines (<https://www.jrheum.org/content/jrheum/early/2021/01/25/jrheum.200721.full.pdf>) .

Clinicians can order these ANCA tests – Proteinase 3 (PR3) and Myeloperoxidase (MPO) if they are practicing:

- Pediatrics and all its subspecialties'
- Internal Medicine and all its subspecialties
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Otolaryngology
- Ophthalmology

The Community Access Pilot will not cover ANCA testing ordered by clinicians outside of this list. Clinicians outside of this list should indicate “patient-pay” on the requisition form.

ACPA (or Anti-CCP) testing

ACPA (Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibodies) testing is used to diagnose
Rheumatoid Arthritis. It is more specific than Rheumatoid Factor in Rheumatoid
Arthritis and therefore more effective in predicting erosive disease.

Clinicians can order ACPA testing if they are practicing:

- Pediatrics and all its subspecialties
- Internal Medicine and all its subspecialties
- Dermatology

The Community Access Pilot will not cover ACPA testing ordered by clinicians
outside of this list. Clinicians outside of this list should indicate “patient-pay” on
the requisition form.

Repeat testing

Ordering Clinicians are advised not to order repeat testing:

- within 1 year if ACPA test results are negative
- if ACPA test results are positive

Table 1: Updated List of Services

Name of Test	Collection and/or Testing	Clinical Indications for Ordering
Trichomonas – Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)	Testing Only	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (NAAT) only-no changes to existing clinical guidance.

Name of Test	Collection and/or Testing	Clinical Indications for Ordering
Gonorrhea (NAAT)	Testing Only	PCR test (NAAT) only-no changes to existing clinical guidance.
Chlamydia (NAAT)	Testing Only	PCR test (NAAT) only-no changes to existing clinical guidance.
C. difficile- EIA stool antigen and Toxin A/B	Testing Only	Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) as initial screen. If EIA results for antigen and toxin A/B are concordant, confirmatory NAAT is not needed.
C. difficile- Confirmatory (NAAT)	Testing Only	NAAT for confirmatory testing only.
Apolipoprotein B	Collection and Testing	As per the 2021 Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) Guidelines (https://www.onlinecjc.ca/action/showPdf?pii=S0828-282X%2821%2900165-3)

Name of Test	Collection and/or Testing	Clinical Indications for Ordering
Lipoprotein a [Lp(a)]	Collections and Testing	As per the 2021 Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) Guidelines (https://www.onlinecjc.ca/action/showPdf?pii=S0828-282X%2821%2900165-3)
Celiac tissue Transglutaminase Immunoglobulin A (tTG-IgA)	Collections and Testing	For the purposes of the Pilot, should be ordered for the diagnosis of celiac disease only with the following criteria: • Indicated in clients over 2 years of age. • Should only be tested while client is on a gluten containing diet. If client is IgA deficient (see "serum IgA" test below), additional testing required will not be funded through this Pilot.
Celiac serum IgA	Collections and Testing	Used alongside Celiac tTG-IgA to determine whether a client is IgA deficient.
N-Terminal-pro hormone	Collections	Clinically indicated only in clients with suspected heart failure.

Name of Test	Collection and/or Testing	Clinical Indications for Ordering
B-type Natriuretic Peptide (NT-proBNP)	and Testing	
Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibodies (ANCA): PR3 and MPO	Collections and Testing	• Canadian Vasculitis Network Guidelines (https://www.jrheum.org/content/jrheum/early/2021/01/25/jrheum.200721.full.pdf) ; as per disease activity • Ordering Clinicians are restricted to Clinicians practising Pediatrics and all its subspecialties, Internal Medicine and all its subspecialties, Dermatology, Neurology, Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology

Name of Test	Collection and/or Testing	Clinical Indications for Ordering
Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibodies (ACPA) *****	Collections and Testing	• If negative, do not repeat within 1 year • If positive, do not repeat • Ordering Clinicians are restricted to Clinicians practising Pediatrics and all its subspecialties, Internal Medicine and all its subspecialties, and Dermatology

Additional information

For further information about the Community Access Pilot for Laboratory Services, please email CommunityLabs@ontario.ca (mailto:CommunityLabs@ontario.ca) or call 416-326-2158.

Keywords/Tags

Community Access Pilot; Community Laboratories; Laboratory Services; Patient Access