



SASKATCHEWAN  
COLLEGE OF  
PHARMACY  
PROFESSIONALS

**SCOPE** *newsletter*  
SPECIAL EDITION NOVEMBER 2015



SCOPE SPECIAL EDITION  
**LABORATORY  
TESTS**

## Medical Laboratory Tests

Welcome to the SCOPe Newsletter Special Edition on Laboratory Testing.

### *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act (the “Act”)*

The Act authorizes pharmacists to play expanded roles with patient-administered and medical laboratory tests. In particular section 23(3) states:

“23(3) A licensed pharmacist who meets the qualifications set out in this Act and the bylaws, may, subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions on that licensed pharmacist’s licence, perform all or any of the following practices:

...

- (c) access and use patient-administered automated tests designated in the bylaws and interpret the results of those tests;
- (d) access, order, perform, use or interpret medical laboratory tests in accordance with the regulatory bylaws made pursuant to this Act and the regulations made pursuant to *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Act, 1994*.”

The purpose of this special edition is to update members on the authority given to pharmacists to “access, order, perform, use or interpret medical laboratory tests” in accordance with the regulatory bylaws made pursuant to *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*.

**While training is not required, members are expected to be sufficiently knowledgeable about such tests in order to competently discharge services involving these tests.**

### Access to Laboratory Testing

All licensed members are authorized to access, use or interpret the results of a medical laboratory test approved by Council if the medical laboratory test is indicated to assist with the management of drug therapy for a patient with which they have a professional relationship. They are also authorized to access, use and interpret the results of patient-administered automated tests approved by Council. As indicated in the bylaws, when a licensed pharmacist accesses a medical laboratory test he assumes the responsibility that should the results of the test be outside of the expected, normal or reference range he will take appropriate follow-up action. The pharmacist is not to provide an interpretation of the results of a medical laboratory test unless it pertains to the pharmacist service being provided to the patient by the pharmacist.

#### Policies, Standards and Guidelines

The College has posted in the Reference Manual the document, *Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacist in Accessing, Ordering, Performing, Using or Interpreting Medical Laboratory Tests*. This document outlines the authorized acts under *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* and offers further details to assist the pharmacist, including the list of the tests that a community pharmacist may order once amendments to other legislation come into force.



# LABORATORY TESTS

## Community Pharmacist Access

While pharmacists now have the authority to order laboratory tests, community pharmacists may not order tests until amendments to the *Medical Laboratory Licensing Act, 1994* and/or regulations are in force recognizing this role of the pharmacist and provincial protocols are in place. Pharmacists may access tests through the EHR viewer and other sources such as patient files when such access is permitted. We will update members as progress occurs with the changes needed to enable ordering of tests.

## Public Health Care Institution Access

Pharmacists practising in public health care institutions, including the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, are authorized to order tests when practising within such institutions according to the institutional policies authorizing such practices.

## References:

1. *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* ([click here](#))
2. *Medical Laboratory Licensing Act, 1994*
3. *SCPP Regulatory Bylaws* ([click here](#))
4. *Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacist in Accessing, Ordering, Performing, Using or Interpreting Medical Laboratory Tests* ([click here](#))