



Central Zone

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Healthcare Providers and Health Service Directors

From: Dr. Bassam Nassar, Medical Director Toxicology Laboratory
Randy Veinotte, Manager Esoteric Laboratories

Date: February 23, 2022

Subject: Change in Policy for Accepting Medical Urine Drug Screening Requests

Since October 2020, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Toxicology Laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has been vetting requests for Medical Urine Drug Screening (MUDS). This policy of requiring approval, has now been decided as a long-term solution to ensure appropriate stewardship of this testing.

On a go forward basis, to obtain approval, contact Dr. Nassar by email or fax:

- email bassam.nassar@nshealth.ca (with cc. to amanda.long@nshealth.ca)

or

- fax completed requisition to 902-473-2123, attention Dr. Nassar.

The following information must be included in the body of the communication and not in the heading or subject line:

- Patient identifiers: (1) patient name (including middle) and date of birth, (2) Health card number
- Date of sample
- Reason for requiring a MUDS

Importantly, prior testing by point of care assays at the laboratory of sample origin or the originating clinic is recommended (as a first screen) where available.

Please note: the intended use of MUDS is only for clinical purposes pertaining to **addiction, the methadone program and pain management**. It is NOT intended for the purposes of workplace or insurance related testing, issues related to child protection or custody, or medicolegal (which includes questions related to vehicle collisions under the influence of drugs, spiked drinks, etc.). This testing requires special arrangements and processes and must be performed via referring to social services, HRM Police...etc. as appropriate.

If there are any questions please contact Dr. Bassam A. Nassar at 902-473-2225 (bassam.nassar@nshealth.ca).