

## **FNIHB- OR Nursing Policy and Procedure**

Section: **Diagnostics** Policy Number: **IV - 05**  
Subject: **NP Initiated Laboratory Tests** Issued: **March 31, 2015**  
Revised:  
Distribution: **All Nursing Facilities**

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### **1. POLICY:**

- 1.1 Nurse Practitioners are permitted to order laboratory tests without a direct physician order, as authorized through the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act (2011)*.

### **2. PRINCIPLES:**

- 2.1 NPs must practice within their own level of competence. When aspects of care are beyond his/her level of competence, he/she must seek additional information or knowledge, seek help from their supervisor or a competent practitioner and/or request a different work assignment. In the meantime, nurses must provide care until another nurse is available to do so.
- 2.2 The nursing staff have access to laboratory personnel and adequate resources when questions arise with regard to laboratory procedures.
- 2.3 Laboratory studies should only be ordered when clinically relevant and recommended by regional or national clinical guidelines.
- 2.4 The NP ordering a test is accountable for reviewing and following up the lab results.

### **3. PROCEDURE:**

- 3.1 After a focused physical examination and data gathering from the client, the nurse shall review the relevant clinical practice guidelines and determine if laboratory tests are recommended.
- 3.2 If collection of laboratory specimens is recommended and the client meets the conditions set forth in the clinical practice guideline, then the nurse shall collect, store and ship the specimen in accordance with the *Nursing Station Laboratory Manual* and *FNIHB-OR Infection Prevention and Control Manual*.
- 3.3 The nurse shall explain the procedure/test, its purpose, and any associated risks. The expected time for the return of the results should also be discussed with the client. Clients are to be advised to book a follow up appointment in advance to review the test results.
- 3.4 Appropriate laboratory form(s) are to be completed and the specimens immediately labeled with the required client identifiers – as directed by the procedures set forth in the *Nursing Station Laboratory Manual*.
- 3.5 Once the laboratory test results are available, the nurse shall follow up in accordance with the FNIHB-OR policy: *Acknowledging Diagnostic Test Results*.

#### 4. RELATED POLICIES:

FNIHB (OR) Policy: Delegation of Controlled Acts  
FNIHB (OR) Policy: Competency for Delegation of Controlled Acts  
FNIHB (OR) Policy: Additional Nursing Functions  
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. (2000). *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care*. Ottawa, ON.  
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. (2001). *Pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care*. Ottawa, ON.  
FNIHB-OR *Infection Prevention and Control Manual*  
*Nursing Station Laboratory Manual*

#### 5. REFERENCES:

CNO (2014). Reference Document: Legislation and Regulation. RHPA: Scope of Practice, Controlled Acts Model.

CNO (2014). Practice Guideline: Authorizing Mechanisms.

CNO (2011). Practice Standard: Nurse Practitioner.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. (2000). *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care*. Ottawa, ON.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. (2001). *Pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care*. Ottawa, ON.

Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act. RRO. 1990, R. 682, as amended 2014. Retrieved from [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_900682\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900682_e.htm)

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>  <b>March 31, 2015</b>
<b>Director of Nursing, Ontario Region</b> <b>Date:</b>	
<b>Regional Executive, Ontario Region</b> <b>Date</b>	