

POSITION STATEMENT

Routine Access and Consideration of Patient Lab Values through SHARE

Introduction

Ensuring that a patient's medications are appropriate for them requires gathering information about the patient from a variety of sources. Pharmacists have the authority to access lab values through the provincial SHARE (Secure Health Access Record) system to support them in fulfilling this unique and critical responsibility in patient care. SHARE holds electronic health records for patients in Nova Scotia, including information regarding patient admissions, discharges, transfers, lab tests, diagnostic images, and clinical reports, and is the primary portal by which healthcare professionals registered with SHARE access lab results.

The *Standards of Practice: General Pharmacy Practice* set out the following professional responsibilities and practice standards that are relevant to pharmacists considering patient lab values:

- Standard 1.1.2 – Gather relevant information about the patient
- Standard 1.2.2 – Identify care plan options and make recommendations to meet the patient's needs
- Standard 1.4.1 – Obtain and evaluate information on the patient's progress with the care plan

Further, the *Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs Appendix A – Patient Assessment for Pharmacist Prescribing* sets out the expectation that an assessment to prescribe considers, as appropriate, the patient's laboratory or other diagnostic test results.

Pharmacists are expected to identify those instances when seeking out lab values would be needed to provide patient-centred drug therapy management. While not every patient interaction requires a review of lab values, in some cases they are a critical element in effectively assessing the appropriateness of drug therapy. In Nova Scotia, meaningfully incorporating consideration of a patient's lab results into routine practice requires ready access to SHARE to gather this information.

Position

It is in the public's best health interest that all pharmacists have access to SHARE so that patient lab values can be routinely used when making a determination of appropriateness of therapy.

- All pharmacists providing direct patient care in community pharmacy are expected to register with SHARE for access to patient lab results without delay.

- Routinely reviewing patient lab values available through SHARE is expected practice in meeting both the *Standards of Practice: General Pharmacy Practice* and *Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs*.
- The inability of a pharmacist to access lab results through SHARE does not relieve a pharmacist of the responsibility to seek out and review the patient's lab values in relevant situations when they are needed to consider the initial and ongoing appropriateness of drug therapy.

Resources

Access to SHARE is available to community pharmacies and pharmacists who complete the application process. Information regarding how to apply for [SHARE Access for Community Pharmacists](#) is available on the Department of Health and Wellness website.