

November 26, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

RE: Provincial Laboratory Test Formulary Website

We would like to inform for those who may not already be aware, of the provincial laboratory test formulary and the formulary database website (<http://www.gov.nl.ca/labformulary/>).

The Provincial Laboratory Formulary (PLF) is an up-to-date catalogue of laboratory tests that are available for ordering within Newfoundland and Labrador. The PLF includes a range of tests including those that are frequently required, but also tests that are rarely required and provides information on how these tests can be ordered when required for individual patients. Tests approved for the PLF are paid for through regular health care funding streams through budgets given to clinical laboratories for testing.

Laboratory test formularies resemble drug formularies in their function but focus on identifying and making available tests that support current standards of practice, are supported by evidence, and are important for optimizing patient health outcomes. Tests listed in the PLF are categorized based on a tiered approach. The tier system defines who can order a test and under what condition. The tier system identifies three groups of tests:

- **Tier 1:** PLF tests that have no special restrictions based on medical specialty and requiring no special approval process.
- **Tier 2:** PLF tests that are restricted to subspecialties or special conditions.
- **Tier 3:** PLF tests where one time authorization is granted by designated laboratory specialist.

While the PLF brings no major changes to the current scope of laboratory services available, it is now a permanent fixture of pathology and laboratory medicine service delivery and provides a framework for decision making on laboratory test availability.

Assisted by a multidisciplinary advisory council and two working groups, the PLF will be continuously updated to promote best practices in utilization of laboratory resources. These groups are comprised of experts and representative stakeholders in laboratory testing, and includes clinicians, laboratory physicians and scientists, health information specialists, information technology support (IT), the public, and leaders from all four RHAs. The operation

of the PLF will also be closely aligned with that of Quality-of-Care NL/Choosing Wisely NL and other provincial initiatives focused on improving utilization and sustainability of laboratory services throughout the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Randell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "R".

Dr. Ed Randell, PhD DCC FCACB FAACC
Director, Clinical Laboratory Services