

Medical Directive: Point of Care Testing

MONITORING

This directive will allow Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Registered Nurses (RNs), and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) of the Withdrawal Management to perform point of care (POC) testing with a breathalyzer for monitoring of blood alcohol concentration, and with urine dipstick analysis for urinalysis, pregnancy testing, and urine drug screening for patients of the Withdrawal Management.

AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTER

NPs, RNs, and RPNs employed by Withdrawal Management in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario possessing the knowledge, skill, and judgment to safely implement this medical directive.

Following review of this directive the authorizing physician must sign for Authorizer Approval and the NPs, RNs, RPNs must sign for Implementer Approval.

RECIPIENT PATIENTS

Patients of the Withdrawal Management who do not have contraindications to POC testing.

INDICATIONS

- 1. Breathalyzer:** Patients presenting with or at risk for alcohol intoxication or alcohol withdrawal, or with a history of alcohol withdrawal seizures, delirium tremens, or withdrawal complications.
- 2. Urinalysis:** Patients with specific complaints of dysuria, urinary frequency, urgency, hematuria, lower abdominal or pelvic pain, lower back pain, fevers/chills, nausea, vomiting, abdominal trauma or acute back injuries.
- 3. Urine bHCG:** Patients who think they are pregnant, are uncertain of pregnancy status, have a possibility of pregnancy, lower abdominal or pelvic pain, back pain, abdominal trauma, or for commencement of birth control.
- 4. Urine Drug Screen (UDS):** Patients presenting for assessment or treatment of substance use disorder.
 - a.** It is acknowledged that the primary utilization of urine drug screen POC testing is to support the client and clinician in assessing and formulating treatment plans.
- 5. Glucometer:** Patients presenting with or at risk for hypoglycemia, or requiring glucose monitoring.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Patient or caregiver does not consent to point of care testing.

CONSENT

The NPs, RNs, or RPNs obtains verbal patient consent for point of care testing.

DOCUMENTATION

All diagnostic tests ordered and their results must be documented in the patient record as outlined in the CNO Standards of Practice in accordance with standard documentation.

REVIEW AND QUALITY MONITORING GUIDELINES

- Tests will be ordered based on clinical indications.
- The RNs or RPNs will interpret and document results of the POC testing, act according to predetermined order sets, or verbally relay this information to the NP if further action or interpretation is required.
- The NP will interpret and act upon the results of the POC testing in accordance with the NP Scope of Practice, best practice, and personal knowledge, skill, and judgment.
- When there are questions of POC interpretation or consequential actions, the NP will collaborate with a physician.
- Annual routine renewal of this directive will occur on the anniversary of the activation date and will involve collaboration between the authorizing physician and the implementing NPs, RNs, and RPNs.

PHYSICIAN AUTHORIZER APPROVAL

Name of Authorizer: _____

Signature of Authorizer

Date

NP, RN, RPN IMPLEMENTER APPROVAL

Name of Implementer: _____

Signature of Implementer

Date

Name of Implementer: _____

Signature of Implementer

Date

Name of Implementer: _____

Signature of Implementer

Date

Date of last renewal: _____
