

LAB TESTS PROPOSED FOR REGULATION

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) intends to make regulations to authorize RDs to order lab tests for the purpose of assessing and monitoring nutrition conditions. In response to a Ministry request for a list of lab tests to be included in regulation, the College proposed a comprehensive list of over 105 lab tests for RDs to order in community, facility and hospital settings. The lab tests are organized under the following headings:

- Vitamins/Minerals • Electrolytes • Hematology •
- Kidney Disease • Liver Disease • Pancreatic Disease •
- Diabetes • Cardiovascular Disease • Eating Disorders •
- Food Intolerances • Miscellaneous

The submission explains the relevance of the lab tests to nutrition status and monitoring and shows how nutrition treatment approaches would be modified as a result of lab values. This proposal is available at: www.cdo.on.ca > Resources > Publications: CDO Submissions.

Before RDs can actually order lab tests, there are several interdependent regulations that must be created or amended,

specifically regulations under the *Public Hospitals Act*, *Health Insurance Act*, *the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* and the *Medical Laboratory Technology Act*. Amending these acts will take time and, subsequently, we don't know when the lab tests regulations will be in place.

In the meantime, the College will be developing standards and educational materials to ensure RDs are fully aware of their professional responsibilities when ordering lab tests. These professional expectations will cover:

- Responsibility/accountability for ordering lab tests, including appropriate documentation and referrals;
- Interprofessional collaboration: communicating/sharing lab test results with other members of the health care team and avoiding duplication of lab test; and
- Communicating lab test results to clients.

We will continue to keep RDs updated on the progress of this authority to order lab tests. RDs are also free to contact the College with any questions.

Thank you

We sincerely thank all the members who responded to the College's lab test surveys.

The College extends **a very special thanks** to the following 64 RDs who were members of our 14 lab test expert advisory panels. As members of the expert panels, these dietitians contributed immensely to the development of the list of lab tests and corresponding rationale/clinical significance that was submitted to the Ministry. Panels also commented on the frequency of testing.

Bariatrics

Jennifer Brown
Denise Poirier
Sue Ekserci
Katie Warwick
Karen Coulman

Cardiology

Kimberly Butt
Barbara Cantwell
Marjan Shalchi
Daphna Steinberg

Critical Care

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Elaine Lo
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Diabetes

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Grace Lee
Wendy Gamblen
Patricia Baker
Michele MacDonald-
Werstuck
Michelle Saraiva

Eating Disorders

Tracie Burke
Madelyne Campbell
Jessica Cane
Holly Dickenson
Jill Fraleigh

Food Allergies/ Intolerances

Andrea Carpenter
Johanna Kaipainen
Sarah Conly
Joanne Saab

Gastroenterology

Andrea Firmin
Susan Hansen
Janet Madill
Meera Mathius
Barbara Wendland

Gerontology

Mary Farris
Carol Paulic
Bev Sikorski
Heather Toll

Internal Medicine

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Heather Barron
Tiffany Krahn
Elke Sengmueller

Oncology

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Susan Haines
Joanne MacNeil

Pediatrics

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Jennifer Fabe
Joan Jory
Amy Pender
Rivanna Stuhler
Roya Riaz

Pregnancy

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Marg Alfieri
Angela Cuddy

Kidney Disease

Linda Cerullo
Lynsay Clark
Kim Fisher
Patricia Forster

Sports Nutrition

Susie Langley
Neil Mackenzie
Beth Mansfield
Margaret Pereira
Nicole Springle
Jennifer Sygo