



Memorandum

December 17, 2024

Provincial Standing Order Policy Update

To: All B.C. Laboratory Providers

- On January 1, 2024, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and the Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services (PLMS) released a Provincial Standing Order Policy which stated the “...*maximum time-period for any Standing Order is twelve (12) months. If no expiry is identified, the default is twelve (12) months*”. The current policy can be found at www.phsa.ca/plms/laboratory-administration/for-laboratories/requisitions
- We understand this policy has created challenges for laboratory staff, patients with mobility and other issues, as well as an unforeseen administrative burden for B.C. physicians. Following extensive discussion with Doctors of BC (DoBC), the Ministry, PLMS, and provincial medical and operational laboratory leaders, the Provincial Standing Order Policy is being amended.
- The revised policy will be released in Spring 2025. Until that time, PLMS is requesting support for the following:
 - All B.C. Laboratories allow an extension for Standing Orders that are expiring in early 2025, while the policy is being updated. This will apply only to Standing Orders with an original time-period of 12-months (the default). It does not apply to standing orders where physicians have indicated other specific time-periods (e.g., three months, two years).
 - All B.C. laboratories to grant a grace period for expired requisitions to ensure patients can complete necessary lab work.
 - In early 2025, PLMS will engage with all B.C. Laboratory providers to complete work on the policy update.
- We ask that laboratory staff exercise discretion in the best interests of patient care and timely results.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Dr. Steve Loken

Chief Medical Laboratory Officer
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services

Brenda Jackson

Senior Executive Director, Clinical Laboratory Operations
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services