

January 1, 2026

BULLETIN

Revised Standard Out-Patient Laboratory Requisitions Effective January 1, 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, The Ministry of Health has approved the following requisitions under the authority of the [Laboratory Services Act](#).

- **Standard Out-Patient Laboratory Requisition (SOPLR), Form # HTLH 1901, Version 2026/01/01**
(Supersedes Version 2018/05/30)
- **Standard Out-Patient Laboratory Requisition for Maternity Care (SOPLR-M), Form # HLTH 1935, Version 2026/01/01**
(Supersedes Version 2018/06/19)

The revised requisitions will be published and are available for download at the following addresses on January 1, 2026:

SOPLR: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/1901fil.pdf>

SOPLR-M: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/1935fil.pdf>

A summary of amendments and test specific changes are included with this bulletin, on pages 2-4 for the SOPLR, and pages 5-7 for the SOPLR-M.

Action Required

Clinicians and laboratory operators must replace all outdated SOPLR and SOPLR-M forms with the revised versions by **June 30, 2026**. Please also update any bookmarks or links to ensure access to the current forms.

Submitting Change Requests

Requests for changes to the standard requisitions can be submitted by completing a [Change Request Application](#). Upon receipt, PLMS will review and evaluate the request, engage subject matter experts as required, and notify applicants of the outcome. Approved changes will be incorporated during the next revision cycle. Please email completed change request forms to requisitions@phsa.ca

Questions

For more information and additional resources, visit the [Requisitions Page](#) on the PLMS website. Inquiries regarding the standard requisitions can be emailed to requisitions@phsa.ca

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Summary of Amendments on the Revised SOPLR

The following table summarizes key amendments to the SOPLR and the rationale for each change. For specific changes made to individual laboratory tests and test panels, see the following page.

Change	Rationale for Change
Patient Demographics	
Added "X" and "UNK" as options for <i>Sex</i>	To comply and align with government gender designations
Added antibiotics to <i>Current Medications</i> field	To align with revisions to Urine Tests and Routine Culture sections
Removed highlight from <i>Bill to</i> field	Field completion is best practice but not mandatory
Practitioner Demographics	
Added instructions for practitioners with multiple clinics; reworded <i>locum</i> field for clarity – from “Locum for practitioner and MSP practitioner number” to “If locum above indicate for which practitioner and include MSP #”	To align with Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Quality Review recommendation
Removed highlight from <i>Copy to</i> field	Field completion is best practice but not mandatory
Test Menu – Hematology	
No changes	
Test Menu – Microbiology	
Updated <i>Routine Culture</i> section: removed antibiotic line and urine source; added penicillin allergy (yes/no); clinical information required for deep wounds and other source; repositioned Group B Strep Pregnancy Screen under genital culture testing	To align with changes to Microbiology testing methodologies and improve clarity
Created <i>STI Tests</i> section: added Trichomonas NAAT; repositioned Gonorrhea Culture (GC) testing and Chlamydia / Gonorrhea NAAT under <i>STI Tests</i> ; removed throat and rectum source; added description “(first catch)” to urine source	To align with changes to Microbiology testing methodologies and improve clarity
Updated and repositioned <i>Vaginitis</i> section: removed Trichomonas testing from Chronic Vaginitis panel; added Pre-Pubertal or Post-Menopausal (Culture) option	To align with changes to Microbiology testing methodologies and improve clarity
Updated and repositioned <i>Stool Specimens</i> as a separate section (now “ <i>Stool Tests</i> ”)	To align with the implementation of molecular multiplex assays for infectious diarrhea testing.
Test Menu – Urine Tests	
Adopted a syndromic testing approach	To clearly define the reason for ordering and align with the GPAC and MSC approved urinary tract infections and microscopic hematuria guidelines.
Test Menu – Serology Tests	
Created new <i>Serology Tests</i> section; placed Hepatitis and HIV serology tests under heading	To improve clarity and align with other changes
Added <i>Syphilis Screening</i>	As approved by the Syphilis Outbreak Response Committee in alignment with the BCCDC Syphilis Action Plan (2022)

Test Menu – Stool Tests	
Created new <i>Stool Tests</i> section; added Infectious Diarrhea Panel; removed outdated culture and ova/parasite tests	To align with the implementation of molecular multiplex assays for infectious diarrhea testing.
Test Menu – Other Tests (renamed “Miscellaneous Tests”)	
Separated <i>Other Tests</i> and <i>Standing Orders</i> into distinct sections	To provide clearer distinction
Test Menu – Chemistry	
Added fasting instructions for Glucose and GTT tests	To align with the Diabetes Care guideline
Test Menu – Other Chemistry Tests	
Removed B12 test	To align with the Cobalamin (vitamin B12) and Folate Deficiency Guideline (2023), discouraging routine screening of asymptomatic individuals. B12 is an overutilized test in BC that is unnecessarily increasing healthcare costs
General Formatting	
Identified tests covered by BC Guidelines with an asterisk (replacing shaded boxes)	Shaded tick boxes did not translate well to a black and white printed requisition
Repositioned practitioner signature and form/version number; removed instructions to patients “see reverse” and “Other Instructions”	To improve clarity and allow for other layout requirements
Electronic Formatting	
Introduced radio buttons for binary fields; all other boxes remain the same	To facilitate completion of Yes/No answer or either/or questions
Enabled e-signature capability	To support electronic completion

Summary of Test Specific Changes on the Revised SOPLR

The following table outlines specific changes made to individual laboratory tests or test panels on the SOPLR as part of the current revision. For tests indicated with an asterisk (*), consult provincial guidelines and protocols (www.BCGuidelines.ca)

Test Section	Test	Action
Hematology	Confirm diagnosis (ferritin first, + TS, + DNA testing)	Added (*)
	Sibling/parent is C282Y/C282Y homozygote (DNA testing)	Added (*)
Microbiology	Trichomonas Testing	Removed
	Pre-Pubertal or Post-Menopausal (Culture)	Added
	Genital Culture + site	Added
	Chlamydia / Gonorrhea NAAT	Added as separate test
	Trichomonas NAAT	Added as separate test
Stool Specimen	Sub-section removed	Removed
Urine Tests	Dipstick (routine screening, or atypical symptoms)	Added, Add (*)
	Dipstick + culture if indicated (e.g., risk of resistant uropathogen)	Added, Add (*)
	Microscopy (nephritis work up /suspected pediatric UTI)	Added, Add (*)
	Culture (Symptomatic UTI, pregnancy, pre-urological procedure)	Added, Add (*)
	Macroscopic → microscopic if dipstick positive	Removed
	Macroscopic → urine culture if pyuria or nitrite present	Removed
	Macroscopic (dipstick)	Removed
	Microscopic * with Clinical information	Removed
Serology Tests	Acute viral hepatitis undefined etiology	Added (*)
	Chronic viral hepatitis undefined etiology	Added (*)
	Investigation of Hepatitis Immune Status	Added (*)
	Hepatitis marker(s) [HBsAg]	Added (*)
	Syphilis Screening	Added
Stool Tests	Infectious Diarrhea Panel	Added, Add (*)
	C. difficile Testing	Added, Add (*)
Other Tests	Renamed to “Miscellaneous Tests”	No change in tests
Chemistry	GTT – gestational diabetes screen (50 g load, 1-hour post-load)	No change
	Glucose – random	No change
	Glucose – fasting (see reverse for patient instructions)	No change
	GTT – gestational diabetes confirmation (75 g load, fasting, 1-hour & 2-hour test)	No change
	GTT – non-gestational diabetes (75 g load, fasting, 2-hour test)	Description added
Lipids	No change to tests	No change
Thyroid Function	No change to tests	No change
Other Chemistry Tests	B12	Removed

Summary of Amendments on the Revised SOPLR-M

The following table summarizes key amendments to the SOPLR-M and the rationale for each change. For specific changes made to individual laboratory tests and test panels, see the following page.

Change	Rationale for Change
Patient Demographics	
Added "X" and "UNK" as options for <i>Sex</i>	To comply and align with government gender designations
Added antibiotics to <i>Current Medications</i> field	To align with revisions to urine testing protocols
Removed <i>Allergies</i> field	Typically not relevant to most lab testing
Added patient postal code	Required per Ministry guidelines
Practitioner Demographics	
Added instructions for practitioners with multiple clinics; reworded <i>locum</i> field for clarity – from “Locum for practitioner and MSP practitioner number” to “If locum above indicate for which practitioner and include MSP #”	To align with Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) Quality Review recommendation
Removed highlight from <i>Copy to</i> field	Field completion is best practice but not mandatory
Test Menu – QUAD SCREEN 14-20 Weeks	
Reworded instructions for Maternal Serum AFP only	Updated to “see BC Prenatal Genetic screening Guidelines for eligibility”; link updated
Test Menu – 0 – 14 Weeks: Recommended Tests	
Added <i>Ferritin</i>	Pregnant individuals are at higher risk of iron deficiency
Renamed <i>Syphilis Serology</i> to <i>Syphilis Screening</i>	To align with SOPLR terminology
Updated link for Blood Group and Antibody Screen	To reflect updated guidelines
Moved TSH and Hepatitis C tests to the <i>Recommended Tests based on risk factors</i> section	To better reflect risk-based testing recommendations and reduce unnecessary testing
Test Menu – 24 – 28 Weeks: Recommended Tests	
Reworded Repeat Antibody Screen instructions	To clarify clinical indications
Reworded GTT – Gestational Diabetes Screen instructions	To provided clearer instructions for initial screening
Indented and reworded GTT – Gestational Diabetes Confirmation instruction	To clarify follow-up testing criteria
Test Menu – 35 – 37 Weeks: Recommended Tests (renamed “36 – 37 Weeks: Recommended Tests”)	
Renamed heading to “36 – 37 Weeks: Recommended Tests”	To reflect updated clinical timing recommendations
Added <i>Syphilis Screening</i>	As approved by the Syphilis Outbreak Response Committee in alignment with the BCCDC Syphilis Action Plan (2022)
Test Menu – Chemistry	
Removed Pregnancy test (urine/serum) and Ferritin; moved Fasting Glucose and Hemoglobin A1C to risk-based section	As recommended by the Chemistry Advisory Committee to address overutilization of B-HCG testing and align with the SOPLR; Ferritin already in 0-14 Weeks section
Test Menu – Vaginitis	
Removed Trichomonas testing; Added Trichomonas NAAT	To align with changes to Microbiology testing methodologies
Test Menu – Thyroid Function	
No changes	
Test Menu – Hematology	

Removed INR, PTT & Fibrinogen tests; revised wording to state “For at-risk ethnicity or carrier partner if not previously done in Canada. Include indication & comments:”	Routine coagulation testing is of limited value in perinatal testing; revision requested by Hematology Advisory Committee to address overutilization
Test Menu – Urine	
Adopted a syndromic testing approach	To clearly define the reason for ordering and align with the GPAC and MSC approved urinary tract infections and microscopic hematuria guidelines.
Test Menu – Serology Tests	
Created new <i>Serology Tests</i> subsection: moved all tests from <i>Immunity/past infection</i> and <i>Acute/new infection only</i> under this section and alphabetized	To consolidate immunity and infection-related tests under a single heading
Test Menu – Recommended Tests Based on Risk Factors	
Created new section; includes HIV Serology, Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Hepatitis C, TSH, Fasting glucose, Hemoglobin A1C tests; Moved TSH and Hepatitis C tests from 0-14 Weeks section	To support risk-based testing and reduce unnecessary testing
Test Menu – Other Tests and/or Patient Instructions	
Moved all tests to <i>Serology</i> subsection; Repositioned section to left side of form	To distinguish from Serology tests and provide increased space for non-listed tests
Collection	
Renamed “Phlebotomist” to “Collector”	To align with SOPLR terminology
General Formatting	
Identified tests covered by BC Guidelines with an asterisk (replacing shaded boxes)	Shaded tick boxes did not translate well to a black and white printed requisition
Repositioned practitioner signature and form/version number	To improve clarity and allow for other layout requirements
Renamed headers: <i>Tests per the perinatal service BC obstetric guideline</i> header → <i>Tests per perinatal services BC</i> ; <i>Other tests as required</i> → <i>Other tests as clinically indicated</i>	To improve clarity
Electronic Formatting	
Introduced radio buttons for binary fields; all other boxes remain the same	To facilitate completion of Yes/No or either/or questions
Enabled e-signature capability	To support electronic completion

Summary of Test Specific Changes on the revised SOPLR-M

The following table outlines specific changes made to individual laboratory tests or test panels on the SOPLR-M as part of the current revision. For tests indicated with an asterisk (*), consult provincial guidelines and protocols (www.BCGuidelines.ca)

Test Section	Test	Action
0-14 Weeks	Ferritin	Added
	Syphilis Serology	Removed
	Syphilis Screening	Added
	Chlamydia/Gonorrhea testing by NAAT	No change
	Urine	No change
24-28 weeks	GTT - gestational diabetes confirmation (75 g load, 8-10 h fasting, water permitted, 2 h test)	Removed
	GTT - Gestational Diabetes Confirmation (Only if 50g screen above is positive) (75 g load, minimum 8h fasting, water permitted, 2 h test)	Added
35-37 weeks	Syphilis Screening (> 35 weeks if planning home birth)	Added
Chemistry	Ferritin	Removed
	Pregnancy Test	Removed
Vaginitis	Trichomonas Testing	Removed
	Trichomonas by NAAT + sites	Added
Thyroid Function	Test remain the same	No change
Hematology	Thalassemia/hemoglobinopathy investigation	Removed
	INR	Removed
	PTT	Removed
	Fibrinogen	Removed
	Thalassemia/hemoglobinopathy investigation for at-risk ethnicity or carrier partner if not previously done in Canada	Added
Urine	Dipstick (routine screening, or atypical symptoms)	Added, Add (*)
	Dipstick + culture if indicated (e.g., risk of resistant uropathogen)	Added, Add (*)
	Microscopy (nephritis work up /suspected pediatric UTI)	Added, Add (*)
	Culture (Symptomatic UTI, pre-urological procedure)	Added, Add (*)
	Macroscopic → microscopic if dipstick positive	Removed
	Macroscopic → urine culture if pyuria or nitrite present	Removed
	Macroscopic (dipstick)	Removed
	Microscopic * with Clinical info.	Removed
Midstream urine for C&S, list current antibiotics	Removed	
Other Tests	Renamed to 'Serology tests' – no change in tests	No change
Risk Factor Tests	Section added, tests previously on form in other sections	No change