

MEMO

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Date: June 28, 2016

To: Primary Care Providers

From: Dr. Sheldon M. Permack MD FCFP; Medical Director, Primary Health Care Program, WRHA
Dr. José Francois MD FCFP; Medical Director, Primary Health Care Program, WRHA

Subject: New Preoperative Documents To Help Reduce Unnecessary Testing

Effective July 11

As part of Choosing Wisely Manitoba, key partners* worked in close collaboration with Primary Care Providers and others to introduce the following revised documents to help reduce unnecessary testing:

- Preoperative Lab Test Guidelines (also available as a web based App (<http://logixmd.com/preop>))
- Preoperative History & Physical

These documents will be accessible on July 11 through the Primary Care page at:
http://www.wrha.mb.ca/professionals/familyphysicians/guidelines_primarycare.php

We are asking for your support and participation as we roll out this initiative.

Because it takes time for new knowledge to be universally incorporated into practice, you may continue to receive outdated communication from surgeons or Preoperative assessment clinics suggesting your patient's surgery may be cancelled unless additional preoperative laboratory testing, beyond what is recommended in the new guideline, is obtained. Please disregard these *out of date requests* for routine unnecessary testing and continue to order tests according to the new guideline – a pattern of practice fully supported by the WRHA departments of anesthesia and surgery and the Primary Health Care Program

The success of this initiative depends on the commitment of all stakeholders to implementing these documents and standards of care – as well as your patience and understanding as we all adapt to the changes. **As a Primary Care Provider, you have an important role to play in successfully implementing these new guidelines and reducing unnecessary preoperative laboratory testing. Consistent use is key.**

If you have any questions / concerns about any of the documents, or if you are interested in taking part in the evaluation of this initiative, please contact Ashley Struthers astruthers@wrha.mb.ca.

Your participation and cooperation is appreciated.

Thank you

* WRHA Surgery Program, WRHA Anesthesia Program, Primary Care, Family Medicine