

January 2011

**Subject: Notice for Health Professionals and Staff to Begin Using New Pre-Operative Testing Guideline**

Please find attached the new Pre-Operative Testing Guideline. This guideline improves patient care by standardizing and clarifying pre-operative testing requirements, and by avoiding unnecessary or duplicate testing.

The grid was authored by local experts, representatives from Anesthesia, Surgery, and Family Medicine-Primary Care. The resulting grid and guideline are an evidence informed synthesis of the consensus recommendations achieved by the clinical team for each test, based on a review of the international literature and practices in other jurisdictions.

**Please begin using the guideline immediately to order pre-operative testing.**

**What is new?**

- Pre-operative testing is now based on assessment of the patient's health, and the type of surgical procedure.
  - Tests ordered are patient specific, based on patient co-morbidities and complexities of surgery.
- Adults undergoing elective minor surgery require no tests routinely if the patient is otherwise healthy.
- Tests and assessments are now valid for six months.
- For cataract surgery no pre-operative lab tests are routinely indicated.
- There are only limited indications for many tests, including chest x-ray, urinalysis, and PTT.
- The guideline is as straightforward as it appears e.g., the METs test reference **is not** a suggestion for a stress test.
- **Do not use** for patients
  - <16 years of age
  - Undergoing **cardiac** surgery.

**Where can I access additional copies of the grid?**

- The guideline and grid are posted online at <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/professionals/familyphysicians/guidelines.php>

**What if I, or my medical or support team, have questions or concerns about the new guideline?**

- Questions can be answered at information sessions offered on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. For session details see the pink sheet in this package or <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/professionals/familyphysicians/guidelines.php>
- You may also send questions or feedback to [pre-opinfo@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:pre-opinfo@wrha.mb.ca)

Thank you in advance for your anticipated use of this new clinical practice guideline.

To improved patient care,

Dr. Luis Oppenheimer, Provincial Director of Patient Access  
Dr. Brock Wright, Senior Vice President, Clinical Services and Chief Medical Officer, WRHA  
Dr. Sheldon Permack, Medical Director, Family Medicine/Primary Care Program, WRHA

cc: Family Physicians (WRHA & non-affiliated) WRHA Family Medicine-Primary Care Program, WRHA Surgery Program, WRHA Anesthesia Program, nursing, Allied Health care providers and administrative staff of these programs, Directors for the following WRHA programs – Diagnostic Imaging, Breast Health, Cardiac Sciences, Medicine, Renal, Oncology, PCH, Rehab / Geriatrics, Emergency, Mental Health, private surgery / labs, CPSM, WRHA surgery sites, WRHA operated / teaching clinics, WRHA funded agencies, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba, WRHA Research & Evaluation, WRHA Communications, Women's Hospital, Health Links, Manitoba College of Family Physicians. Patients / public may be formally communicated to in future, via a strategic communication effort.



Winnipeg Regional  
Health Authority  
Caring for Health

Office régional de la  
santé de Winnipeg  
À l'écoute de notre santé

