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Contractual agreements between NSH/IWK and Independent Phlebotomists Questions and Answers – June 10, 2021

Why do NSH and the IWK require independent phlebotomists to enter into contractual agreements?

NSH and the IWK must ensure appropriate standards for collection and delivery are met to protect integrity of specimens submitted for laboratory testing. By signing an Agreement, independent phlebotomists are committing to consistently meet these quality standards.

Do all independent phlebotomists have to enter into a contractual agreement with NSH and the IWK?

Yes. All Independent phlebotomists must apply for, and if approved, enter into a legal Agreement.

Where can I find a copy of the Agreement so I know what is required?

The document can be reviewed by clicking this link:

[Agreement for Acceptance of Specimens Collected by Independent Phlebotomists for Laboratory Testing by Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](#)

When must Agreements be in place?

Agreements must be fully approved prior to submission of specimens for testing. Specimens submitted by independent phlebotomists without an Agreement will be rejected.

How do I apply for an Agreement?

Please review the information found on the [Independent Phlebotomy Application](#) web page.

Can I deliver other laboratory specimens from other health care providers?

Working as an independent phlebotomist under the NSH/IWK Agreement, you can only collect blood and urine from the clients you are serving. These specimens must be packaged by you and you are ultimately responsible for delivery.

If a long-term care facility or physician office wishes to contract you as a courier to deliver samples from their facility, you would be doing that work as a courier, not as an independent phlebotomist. There must be clear separation of the specimens at the time of delivery. Your blood and urine specimens must be packaged separately following the requirements of the Agreement, accompanied by the courier form.

The Agreement does not limit your ability to courier other deliveries that have been collected and packaged by those health care facilities. Your accountability with those samples types is only as a courier.

Can independent phlebotomy be performed by unregulated healthcare professionals?

Unregulated professions, such as Medical laboratory Assistants, must be under the supervision and control of a licensed Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT). This is a requirement of the Medical Laboratory Technology Act (Nova Scotia).

Can a nurse or doctor provide supervision and control?

No, only an MLT can provide supervision and control as stated in the Act. Licensed nurses and doctors may collect specimens under the Act, but cannot supervise unregulated healthcare professionals doing so.

If I have CSMLS Certification as an MLT, but am not licensed in NS, can I still work as an IP, or provide supervision and control?

No. An MLT must be licensed by NSCMLT to be considered an MLT in Nova Scotia. If they wish to provide an IP service without this licensure, they will need supervision and control by a licensed MLT.

Our office has a workplace violence policy. Will this be sufficient to cover the NVCI requirement?

A policy is not sufficient. Regulations require the employer to perform a risk assessment and a plan to mitigate the risk. Staff collecting blood from clients' at their homes require Non-Violence Intervention Training. For organizations who have taken other measures, as identified in their organizational violence risk assessment, the plan and documentation of these other measures can be submitted as evidence for review.

How can I find out more?

If you have immediate questions or concerns, please email IPOffice@nshealth.ca .