



Contractual agreements between NSHA/IWK and Independent Phlebotomists Questions and Answers – December 6, 2016

Why are NSHA and the IWK requiring independent phlebotomists to enter into contractual agreements?

In the absence of regulation, NSHA and the IWK must make sure that appropriate standards for collection and delivery are met to ensure integrity of specimens submitted for laboratory testing. By signing a contract, independent phlebotomists are committing to consistently meet these quality standards.

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

Yes. All Independent phlebotomists currently collecting in Nova Scotia who wish to continue to provide services must apply to enter into a contract no later than end of business day Jan. 6, 2017.

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

The contract is known as the [Agreement for Acceptance of Specimens Collected by Independent Phlebotomists for Laboratory Testing by Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/doing-business-us/independent-phlebotomy) and can be found on the NSHA website at <http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/doing-business-us/independent-phlebotomy>

When must contracts be in place?

Contracts must be in place by April 1, 2017.

How do I apply for a contract?

Please complete the *Independent Phlebotomy: Application for Agreement*, which is located on the NSHA website <http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/doing-business-us/independent-phlebotomy>. Email your completed application form to IPOffice@nshealth.ca.

Is this change going to result in a disruption in service for independent phlebotomy clients?

The submission timeline for applications will prevent any disruption in service and provide a transition period for applicants until such time as the application is processed. NSHA and the IWK will work collaboratively with independent phlebotomy clients to assist in the application process.

If I wish to start a new business, can I apply?

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is in the process of reviewing how we work with independent phlebotomists to ensure the highest possible level of quality and patient safety. As a result, we will not be expanding services or entering into any new agreements with independent phlebotomists at this time.



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

Working as an independent phlebotomist under the NSHA/IWK contract, you can only collect blood and urine from the patients 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 contract, accompanied by the courier form. The contract is not limiting 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.

How can I find out more?

If you have immediate questions or concerns, please contact Anita Muise at 902-473-6585 or email JPOffice@nshealth.ca.