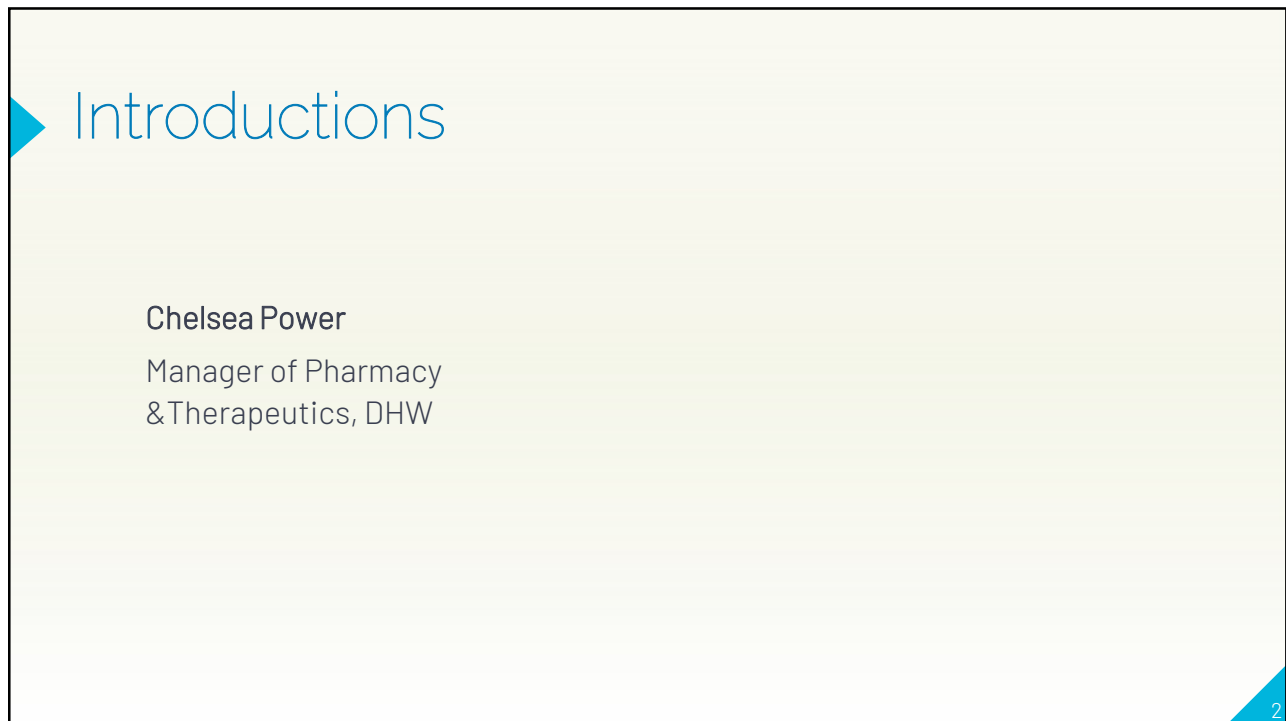




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## Disclosures

- ▶ I have no current or past relationships with commercial entities.
- ▶ This program has received no financial or in-kind support from any commercial or other organization.

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## Agenda

- ▶ Strep update
- ▶ Overview: Ordering and Interpreting Laboratory Test in Community Pharmacy

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## Strep Throat Assessment Data

| Assessment Type | Number of Assessments |            |            |            |            | TOTAL       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                 | Dec/25                | Jan/26     | Feb/26     | March/26   | April/26*  |             |
| Swab Positive   | 9                     | 53         | 155        | 153        | 107        | <b>477</b>  |
| Swab Negative   | 16                    | 64         | 252        | 242        | 187        | <b>761</b>  |
| No Swab         | 43                    | 53         | 137        | 123        | 90         | <b>446</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>68</b>             | <b>170</b> | <b>544</b> | <b>518</b> | <b>384</b> | <b>1684</b> |

\*Data from Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, until April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## Regional Breakdown

| Region        | Percentage |
|---------------|------------|
| Kings County  | 15%        |
| Prince County | 22%        |
| Queens County | 63%        |

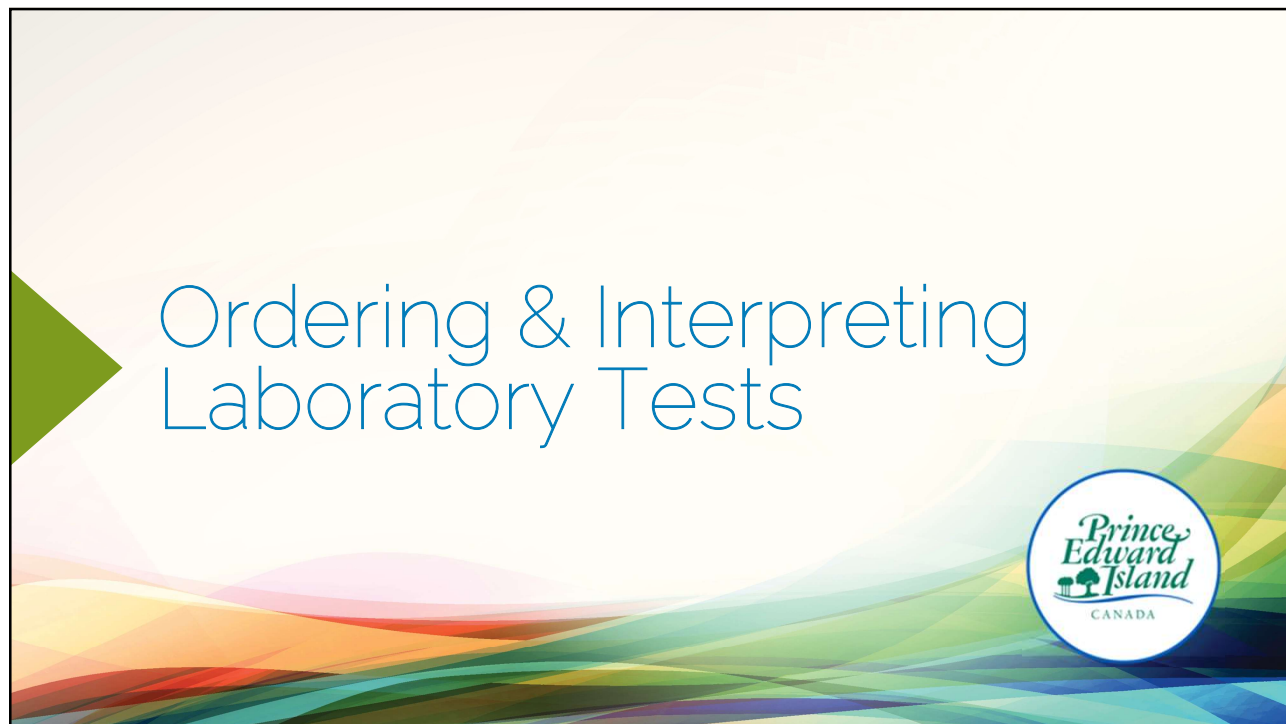


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## Feedback



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## ▶ Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, participants will be able to:

- ▶ Describe the role of pharmacist-ordered laboratory testing within the Pharmacy Plus PEI program and its alignment with pharmacists' scope of practice in Prince Edward Island.
- ▶ Identify applicable government policies and PEI College of Pharmacy standards that govern the ordering of laboratory tests by community pharmacists.
- ▶ Discuss general approaches and considerations related to ordering laboratory tests in community pharmacy practice, including test selection, documentation, and patient access considerations.

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## ▶ Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, participants will be able to:

- ▶ Describe the pharmacist's responsibilities as the Most Responsible Provider, including interpretation of results, timely patient follow-up, and management of critical values.
- ▶ Utilize the MyHealthPEI Health Care Provider Portal to access laboratory results and recognize system limitations related to result availability and notifications.
- ▶ Explore key considerations for implementing lab ordering within community pharmacy practice, including readiness requirements and workflow planning.

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## ▶ Pharmacy Plus: Ordering & Interpreting Labs

- ▶ Pharmacist-ordered lab testing:
  - ▶ Supports **active** medication management
  - ▶ Enhances patient care and clinical decision-making
- ▶ Follow-ups pursuant to laboratory testing will soon become a reimbursable service under Pharmacy Plus PEI.
- ▶ While pharmacists' scope of practice is broad, not all authorized activities will be reimbursed through Pharmacy Plus.



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## Pharmacy Plus: Ordering & Interpreting Labs

### Scope of Practice

- ▶ Laboratory testing within pharmacy practice may be used when:
  - ▶ The test supports monitoring or management of existing drug therapy, or
  - ▶ The test is required to support the assessment and prescribing for a common ailment
  - ▶ The test is used for the purposes of screening a patient for diseases that may require drug therapy.

### Reimbursement through Pharmacy Plus

- ▶ Pharmacy Plus reimbursement applies only to laboratory services that support monitoring and management of existing drug therapy.

### Processing of Laboratory Tests

- ▶ Laboratory tests must meet established reimbursement criteria to be eligible for processing through HPEI laboratories.

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## Billing for Follow-Ups Pursuant to Labs

- ▶ Pharmacists are **not reimbursed** for ordering lab tests
- ▶ Reimbursement is available for:
  - ▶ Providing follow-up clinical assessment on the findings of the laboratory requisition
- ▶ Service:
  - ▶ Medication Review Follow-Up Pursuant to Pharmacist's Laboratory Order
- ▶ Parameters:
  - ▶ Up to 2 follow-ups per patient per 365 days
  - ▶ \$20 per follow-up

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## Billing Rules and Documentation

- ▶ A prior medication review is **not** required
- ▶ Pharmacists cannot bill:
  - ▶ A medication review follow-up
  - ▶ And a lab follow-up on the same day
- ▶ Documentation must meet audit requirements
  - ▶ Must retain documentation referencing how the lab tests ordered relate to monitoring and managing **active** drug therapy.
  - ▶ Must retain a copy of the requisition

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## Case Example 1: Monitoring Existing Drug Therapy

In scope | 
  Reimbursable under Pharmacy Plus | 
  Permitted to use Health PEI Lab

### Scenario:

An unaffiliated patient is taking an ACEI for hypertension and presents to the pharmacy for a medication review. The pharmacist orders serum creatinine and potassium to assess renal function and electrolyte balance following a recent dose increase.

### Why this is in scope:

The test supports monitoring and management of existing drug therapy.

### Why this is reimbursable:

Pharmacy Plus reimbursement applies only to lab services that support monitoring and management of existing drug therapy. Tests meet reimbursement criteria and can be processed through HPEI laboratories.

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## Case Example 2: Common Ailment Assessment

✅ In scope | ❌ Not reimbursable under Pharmacy Plus | ❌ Health PEI Lab use NOT permitted

### Scenario:

A patient presents with symptoms of a suspected uncomplicated urinary tract infection. The pharmacist orders a urinalysis to support assessment and prescribing under the common ailments framework.

### Why this is in scope:

The test is used to support assessment and prescribing for a common ailment, which falls within pharmacy scope of practice.

### Why this is not reimbursable:

The test is not related to monitoring or managing an existing drug therapy. Pharmacy Plus reimbursement does not apply, and the test would not be eligible for processing through HPEI laboratories under reimbursement criteria.

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## Case Example 3: Disease Screening

✅ In scope | ❌ Not reimbursable under Pharmacy Plus | ❌ Health PEI Lab use NOT permitted

### Scenario:

A patient with multiple risk factors requests screening for diabetes. The pharmacist orders an HbA1c to screen for a condition that may require future drug therapy.

### Why this is in scope:

The test is used for screening a patient for a disease that may require drug therapy.

### Why this is not reimbursable:

Pharmacy Plus reimbursement is limited to lab services tied to existing drug therapy, not screening. As a result, the test would not meet reimbursement criteria for processing through HPEI laboratories.

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## Case 4: Prescription Renewals

In scope | 
  Reimbursable under Pharmacy Plus | 
  Permitted to use Health PEI Lab

### Scenario:

An unaffiliated patient presents to the pharmacy for a renewal of their levothyroxine prescription. The patient states they have no family doctor and have not had bloodwork in years. The pharmacist orders TSH to assess response to therapy and determine whether a dose adjustment is required.

### Why this is in scope:

The test supports ongoing management of an established medication.

### Why this is reimbursable:

The lab service directly relates to monitoring existing drug therapy. It meets Pharmacy Plus reimbursement criteria and is eligible for processing through HPEI laboratories.

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## Policies, Standards & Professional Requirements

- ▶ No specific training program is required. Pharmacists develop the foundational knowledge to order and interpret laboratory tests through entry-to-practice education.
- ▶ Pharmacists should:
  - ▶ Maintain competency through continuing education as needed
  - ▶ Be familiar with lab ordering processes and result access
- ▶ Practice must align with:
  - ▶ Health PEI policies
  - ▶ Registration declarations
  - ▶ PEI College of Pharmacy Practice Directive: Laboratory Testing and Point-of-Care Testing

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## What Lab Tests Can Pharmacists Order?

- ▶ Pharmacists may order:
  - ▶ Tests from a standardized list on the lab requisition form
- ▶ Tests are:
  - ▶ Ordered based on a clearly identified clinical need
  - ▶ To monitor and manage active drug therapy
- ▶ Ordering should be purposeful:
  - ▶ Results must inform patient care decisions



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## Who Can Receive Pharmacist-Ordered Lab Services?

- ▶ Islanders with a valid PEI Health Card
- ▶ Have a clinical need identified by the pharmacist who is monitoring and managing active drug therapy
- ▶ Lab tests must be ordered based on professional judgment and clinical rationale



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## Ordering Labs & Patient Access

- ▶ Patients may book lab appointments:
  - ▶ Online (Skip the Waiting Room)
  - ▶ By phone
- ▶ Pharmacists should:
  - ▶ Direct patients to appropriate booking resources
  - ▶ Ensure patients understand how and where to complete lab work



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## Accessing Lab Results

- ▶ Lab result availability may vary and typically occurs several days following sample collection.
- ▶ Results are accessed through:
  - ▶ MyHealthPEI Health Care Provider Portal
- ▶ Pharmacists are responsible for:
  - ▶ Monitoring the portal (no results notification)
  - ▶ Reviewing results in a timely manner



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## Understanding Critical Values

- ▶ What is a **critical value**?
  - ▶ A critical value is a laboratory test result that falls significantly outside the normal range and indicates a potentially life-threatening condition.
- ▶ Critical values require:
  - ▶ Immediate clinical attention
  - ▶ Prompt notification to ordering pharmacist (24/7/365 contact number)
  - ▶ Urgent contact with patient to advise on management of critical value
- ▶ A list of common critical values will be provided as part of the lab ordering guidebook.

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## Critical Value Examples

- ▶ Creatinine
  - ▶ Critical:  $>400 \mu\text{mol/L}$
  - ▶ Call frequency: Once every 6 months (unless  $>25\%$  change from previous critical; dialysis patients excluded)
- ▶ Potassium
  - ▶ Critical:  $<2$  months:  $<2.9$  or  $>7.0 \text{ mmol/L}$   $\geq 2$  months:  $<2.9$  or  $>6.5 \text{ mmol/L}$
  - ▶ Call frequency: Each event
- ▶ Therapeutic Drug Levels (examples)
  - ▶ Lithium:  $>1.5 \text{ mmol/L}$  - Once every 72 hours

**Note:** These examples are illustrative only and do not represent an exhaustive list of critical values.

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## Pharmacists as the Most Responsible Provider

- ▶ Pharmacists who order lab tests are the **Most Responsible Provider**
- ▶ Responsibilities include:
  - ▶ Maintaining a 24/7/365 contact process
  - ▶ Being reachable for critical results
  - ▶ Ensuring appropriate follow-up care occurs (follow-up may be provided by another pharmacist; however, the ordering pharmacist remains fully accountable for ensuring it happens)
  - ▶ Contacting patients promptly
  - ▶ Advising on appropriate management
  - ▶ Documenting actions taken
  - ▶ Communicating with other providers within the circle of care

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## Implementation Considerations

- ▶ Readiness considerations include:
  - ▶ Workflow for ordering and tracking labs
  - ▶ Monitoring results via MyHealthPEI Health Care Provider Portal
  - ▶ Coverage for critical values after hours
  - ▶ Documentation and record-keeping
  - ▶ Communication with other providers



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## ▶ Key Takeaways

- ▶ Lab ordering is a clinical tool to support medication management
- ▶ Tests must be clinically justified for the purposes of **monitoring and managing active drug therapy**.
  - ▶ **Note: different than scope of practice**
- ▶ Pharmacists ordering labs assume full responsibility for results
- ▶ Critical values require immediate action
- ▶ Planning and systems are key to safe implementation
- ▶ A full information package will be distributed prior to launch
- ▶ Pharmacists are the **Most Responsible Provider**

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## ▶ Questions?



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