



SELF TESTING PRODUCTS GUIDELINE

- 1) Self Testing Products are devices approved by the federal government and are available to consumers to help them:
 - a) diagnose a specific condition with symptoms,
 - b) screen for a condition with symptoms, or
 - c) monitor existing conditions
- 2) Any procedure associated with a self testing product which does not involve a invasive procedure may fall with in the scope of Pharmacy practice. However, instruction in the use of devices to obtain minute blood samples, through a finger prick, would be permissible.
- 3) Pharmacy premises must include:
 - a) adequate private space for on-site counselling,
 - b) adequate private space for providing instruction
 - c) proper equipment and procedures for disposal of "sharps" and contaminated materials as described in the Canadian Standards Association: "Handling of Waste Materials in Health Care facilities 1988", and
 - d) confidential record keeping system that would include, but not be limited to, date, patient name, test performed and training results.
- 4) The following self tests may be taught and provided by the pharmacy:
 - a) blood pressure
 - b) pregnancy tests
 - c) blood glucose monitoring
 - d) pulmonary function test
 - e) cholesterol tests
- 5) Checking procedures shall be incorporated into the explanation to verify the patient's understanding of the testing procedure, the implications of results and the importance of doing, where applicable, control tests.
- 6) The patient shall receive instruction regarding the:
 - a) appropriate use of the test,
 - b) proper care and storage of the equipment and materials,
 - c) the importance of equipment calibration and checks, where appropriate,
 - d) correct procedure, and the importance thereof, for performing the test accurately,
 - e) importance of using the self testing kit prior to the expiration date, and,
 - f) factors that may provide for a "false" test (including the concurrent use of medication).
- 7) The patient shall be advised:
 - a) the test is a supplement to medical care and not a substitute,
 - b) the tests have inherent limitation, and
 - c) a medical practitioner should validate the patient's results when deemed appropriate to do so.

- 8) All test results will be held in the strictest confidence.
- 9) The pharmacist must offer follow-up appointments to observe technique and validation of "take home" tests, where applicable.
- 10) The person performing the tests or training the patient in a self test procedure, occurring in the pharmacy, must be trained and knowledgeable in the specific test.
- 11) The pharmacist manager may advertise the availability of self testing services.
- 12) The pharmacy manager is held responsible to ensure the principles described in this document are maintained within the pharmacy.