



Memo to FP Clinicians (Outpatients) concerning blood collection.

Please play close attention to the direction given below for your **URGENT** blood test requests. The main objective is to reduce unnecessary risks to patients through limiting blood collection activities.

The **RATIONALE** on this issue is:

- Patients will be in crowded waiting rooms, at less than recommended two meter distance
- Blood collection is a high-risk activity for COVID-19 transmission since *the distance between patient and phlebotomist is less than one foot.*
- Personal protective equipment, is in short supply
- **ALL** of these **INCREASE** the risk to patients, those they encounter, and community at large.

Kindly keep these potential risks in mind BEFORE ordering lab tests

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Outpatient blood collection will occur by appointment only. Appointments for urgent outpatient blood collection **MUST** be arranged by physician offices by calling the location preferred. Contact information listed below.
2. ALL outpatient laboratory test orders **MUST** be indicated on a **Laboratory Test Special Authorization Form** (LTSA form; Approval not required), with clearly typewritten or handwritten text, and the rationale for the urgent request clearly indicated.
3. Requisitions completed prior to March 16, 2020, will **NOT** be considered urgent.

Thank you for understanding and your kind cooperation.

Laboratory Test Special Authorization Form and Site Contact numbers and times attached