POSITION STATEMENT
Testing for the Purpose of Drug Therapy Management

Introduction

The *Pharmacy Act* s. 32(2)(b) and the *Pharmacist Extended Practice Regulations* definitions authorize pharmacists to order, receive, conduct or interpret tests needed to properly manage drug therapy. This position statement clarifies the NSCP's position on what constitutes drug therapy management, and as such when testing would be consistent with this legislated requirement.

Drug therapy management is a healthcare service provided by pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to ensure the best therapeutic outcomes for patients.[1] It encompasses a broad range of practice activities that a pharmacist undertakes in meeting their professional responsibilities to identify potential and actual drug-related problems; resolve actual drug-related problems (independently or in collaboration with other members of a patient's care team when appropriate and in accordance with a pharmacist's scope of practice); and prevent potential drug-related problems.[2]

Drug-related problems fall into one of eight categories:

1. *Untreated Indications.* The patient has a medical problem that may warrant drug therapy (an indication for drug use) but is not receiving a drug for that indication;
2. *Improper Drug Selection.* The patient has a drug indication but is taking the wrong drug;
3. *Subtherapeutic Dosage.* The patient has a medical problem that is being treated with too little of the correct drug;
4. *Failure to Receive Drugs.* The patient has a medical problem that is the result of his or her not receiving a drug (e.g., for pharmaceutical, psychological, sociological, or economic reasons);
5. *Overdosage.* The patient has a medical problem that is being treated with too much of the correct drug (toxicity);
6. *Adverse Drug Reactions.* The patient has a medical problem that is the result of an ADR or adverse effect;
7. *Drug Interactions.* The patient has a medical problem that is the result of a drug-drug, drug-food, or drug-laboratory interaction; and
8. *Drug Use Without Indication.* The patient is taking a drug for no medically valid indication.

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[1] Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Community Pharmacists and Medication Therapy Management". Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/guides/best-practices/pharmacist-mtm.htm.

[2] Hepler C.D. and Strand L.M., "Opportunities and Responsibilities in Pharmaceutical Care", *American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* 1990; 47: 533-43.

Position

Testing activities that support the pharmacist in providing drug therapy management, including those that support screening for a medical condition for which drug therapy is not yet established and may be warranted, is consistent with the legislative authority for pharmacists to be involved in testing to properly manage drug therapy for a patient.