

LifeLabs

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BC Healthcare Providers Newsletter

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Urine Oxalate Testing Resumes December 6, 2026

LifeLabs has developed and validated an alternative urine oxalate testing method in response to a global reagent shortage that has resulted in repeated interruptions to testing over the past two years. Testing using the new methodology (mass spectrometry) is scheduled to resume on **December 6, 2026**.

Please note that **only 24-hour urine collection specimens will be accepted**.

Urine oxalate measurement is valuable in the assessment of patients with recurrent kidney stones. Results can help guide further diagnostic investigations and support treatment strategies aimed at preventing recurrence.

With the introduction of the new testing methodology, the reference interval will be revised. **Results should not be directly compared with those obtained using the previous enzymatic method.**

Updated LifeLabs Standard Outpatient Requisition Effective November 15, 2026

Earlier this year, the **BC Laboratory Requisitions Manual of Policies** came into effect under the **Laboratory Services Act**, establishing provincial requirements for laboratory requisitions across British Columbia.

To support alignment with these requirements, LifeLabs is pleased to introduce an updated **LifeLabs Standard Outpatient Requisition**, aligned with the BC Ministry of Health's Standard Outpatient Laboratory Requisition. The updated requisition will take effect on **November 15, 2026**, supporting a consistent and streamlined laboratory requisition process for healthcare providers and patients across the province.

Key Changes

Requisition layout: Sections and fields have been reorganized to align with the Ministry of Health Standard Outpatient Laboratory Requisition.

Provider and patient information: Some fields have been modified, removed, or relocated.

Test selection: Testing sections have been reorganized, with some tests moved, renamed, added, or removed.

Ordering and collection information: Updates have been made to how certain tests, collection details, and other required information are documented.

Standing Orders: Standing Orders now have a dedicated section separate from Other Tests.

New information: A patient instructions section and the Ministry of Health privacy statement have been added.

We recognize that changes to requisition forms can affect daily workflow. To support a smooth transition, a **Requisition Guide** has been developed to provide an overview of the changes and identify where they appear on the new requisition form.

The guide will be posted on the LifeLabs website in the coming weeks at: **LifeLabs Requisitions**.

Changes to Antibiotic Susceptibility Reporting for Gram-Negative Organisms

Effective **October 7, 2026**, LifeLabs implemented changes to antibiotic susceptibility testing and reporting for applicable Gram-negative organisms.

As part of this update:

- **Cefixime** is no longer routinely reported.
- **Tetracycline** is no longer routinely reported.
- **Doxycycline** is now reported where appropriate.

These changes reflect updates to LifeLabs' laboratory testing and reporting practices.

Urine Specimen Stability Change for STI Testing

Effective **January 1, 2027,** LifeLabs will update the specimen acceptance criteria for urine specimens submitted for the following sexually transmitted infection (STI) nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), in accordance with the manufacturer's specimen handling requirements:

- *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- *Trichomonas vaginalis*

New Specimen Acceptance Criteria

Urine collected in a routine urine collection container **must be received by the laboratory within 1 day of collection.** Urine specimens received more than 1 day after collection may be rejected.

To help avoid specimen rejection, if the specimen cannot be submitted within 1 day through your routine courier service, please consider one of the following options:

A. Collection at a LifeLabs Patient Service Centre

B. Collection by the patient at home

C. Collection at your clinic with arrangements that allow the specimen to reach the laboratory within 1 day of collection

For further information about available collection options, please visit **https://tests.lifelabs.com/s/article/CHLAMYDIA--GC-DNA-ASSAY---URINE-Lower-Mainland?searchedValue=GC**.

For questions or assistance, please contact the LifeLabs Customer Support Team at **1-800-431-7206**.