

HbA1c

Audience:	Internal and External Clients
Issuing Dept.:	Division of Clinical Biochemistry
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The Medical Advisory Committee has approved a restriction on repeat testing of HbA1c. Any bloodwork for HbA1c that is collected within 60 days of a previous result will not be performed by the laboratory without a valid reason.

The 2018 Diabetes Canada guideline related to monitoring of HbA1c¹, indicates that a repeat test would be appropriate after 3 months when blood glucose targets are not being met or when making changes to diabetes management. In some circumstances, such as when significant changes are made to glucose-lowering therapy or during pregnancy, HbA1c may be checked more frequently.

The ordering clinician will see a comment in the test result stating: "Test was not performed due to a previous order within the preceding 2 months. Please contact the Laboratory within 5 days if testing is required." **The Biochemist on-call will approve any requests that fall within the retesting period with a valid reason.**

Consistent with the Choosing Wisely Priority Areas 2019-2020, chronic disease laboratory testing (e.g. lipid profile, HbA1c, Vitamin D, TSH) should not be performed in patients unless clinically indicated by a change in symptoms or where the result will change the management plan.²

References:

1. Diabetes Canada Clinical Practice Guidelines Expert Committee. Monitoring Glycemic Control. Canadian Journal of Diabetes. April 2018, 42 (S1) S47–S53. [\[link\]](#)
2. Choosing Wisely at Sunnybrook: <http://sunnynet.ca/default.aspx?cid=122175>