

Date:	October 8, 2020
To:	All Physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, Northern Lead Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services
Re:	Medical Imaging and Laboratory Services Backlog

The restart of non-essential medical imaging and laboratory services has resulted in a large backlog of exams and orders for all medical imaging modalities and laboratory services. Sites are working diligently to manage workload by accommodating patients in order of priority.

Do not resubmit orders unless the urgency of the order changes **or** there are changes to requested exams and orders. Managing duplicate paperwork caused by unnecessary resubmissions will add to the current backlog and reduce efficiency.

Please note these procedural amendments:

- If a requisition is re-submitted due to urgency or requested tests/exams, indicate on the requisition when the original form was submitted and that the current form replaces the original as requirements have changed.
- Contact local laboratory directly for appointment booking if patient requires bloodwork within the next 72 hours.
- To assist with prioritization of requests include on requisitions:
 - patient diagnosis
 - recommended time frame for completion of exams or orders

Thank you for your assistance in providing efficient and expedient services to our Northern Health patients.

For further information or questions, please contact Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director of Diagnostic Services at Lisette.vienneau@northernhealth.ca