RATIONALE:
Drug therapy is complex and patients require timely clinical decisions to ensure safe and effective care. However, there are often unnecessary delays such as missing laboratory tests that may compromise the safety, effectiveness, and timeliness of drug therapy.

The intent of this policy is to optimize patient care in a timely and effective manner, by enabling BCCA pharmacists to practice to a wider extent of their knowledge and skills. This will reduce treatment delays and unnecessary calls and workload for physicians and pharmacists.

DIRECTIVE:
When necessary, pharmacists will order laboratory tests for BCCA patients as outlined by the BCCA protocol the patient is receiving. Laboratory tests may include, but are not limited to CBC and differential, platelets, serum creatinine, urea, albumin, liver function tests, INR, and electrolytes.

PROCEDURES:
Pharmacists
1. Review patient’s drug therapy and collect all necessary information from the appropriate sources.
2. Assess and interpret laboratory data already available
3. Determine which laboratory tests need to be ordered according to the BCCA protocol.
4. Write an order for the necessary laboratory test(s) in the patient’s chart. Always attempt to incorporate measurements with other blood tests to avoid unnecessary venous punctures.

Unit Clerks
1. Process the pharmacist’s order for the laboratory test(s) under the prescribing physician.

Laboratory Staff
1. Process the ordered laboratory test as per standard procedure
2. Provide the results of the laboratory test as per current practice.

REFERENCES:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: LABORATORY TESTS – ORDERING BY PHARMACISTS</th>
<th>Number: III-100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effective Date:</strong> 1 July 2012</td>
<td><strong>Approved By:</strong> Provincial Systemic Program Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revised Date:</strong> 28 Feb 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>