



BLOOD TESTING PROTOCOL To monitor alcohol consumption

This protocol has been developed to inform registrants of the Board's expectations and to ensure standardisation in the operation of the Program.

Preamble:

1. The Board's Blood Testing Protocol for the use of alcohol includes (but is not limited to) the following tests:
 - Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (CDT);
 - Liver Function Testing (LFT);
 - Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV); and
 - Full Blood Count
2. A Registrant is required to attend for such testing for one of three reasons:
 - An undertaking has been entered into between the Board and the registrant;
 - A condition to do so has been imposed on his/her registration; or
 - An order to do so has been imposed.
3. The Board's primary responsibility is the protection of "vulnerable persons." This includes the public and the registrant.
4. Non-compliance with the protocol may result in disciplinary action against the registrant.
5. The Board is aware that attending for such testing may be inconvenient; however the alternative may be cancellation of registration. The Board requires such monitoring so that registrants who have an alcohol dependence/abuse disorder can remain in the workforce. Such monitoring provides evidence of compliance with management.
6. Blood tests may be supplemented by breath-testing for alcohol (see Alcohol Breath-Testing Protocol).

Requirements:

1. Registrants must use only pathology request forms that have been provided by the Board, and may not self-refer for blood testing as required by the Board under any circumstances. When presenting for a test, registrants are required to write that day's date on the form.
2. Registrants are responsible for meeting the cost of testing.
3. Registrants must attend for the first test within 7 days of receipt of the Board's letter that is issued to the registrant at the commencement of testing.
4. Results are sent to the Board for monitoring purposes. Any discrepancies will be drawn to the registrant's attention and an explanation will be required.
5. The frequency of testing is determined by the Board, however will usually range from every 1 to 3 months depending on monitoring requirements.



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6. Registrants must attend for subsequent testing on the same date. If it is not possible to test on the same date, for instance if the date falls on a week-end, registrants are required to test within 5 days of the usual date.
7. Registrants should keep a diary of when tests are due, as reminder notices will not be issued. Failure to test when required will result in the registrant being referred to the Board for consideration of further action.
8. Registrants are to contact the HAM Unit when there are only 2 request forms remaining so that additional forms may be provided.
9. Registrants may use an alias when presenting for blood testing. Registrants requiring an alias should contact the HAM Unit so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
10. Copies of all test results will be forwarded to a registrant's treating psychiatrist and/or other treating health practitioners, as deemed appropriate by the Board. If a registrant requires copies of their results, the registrant should advise the HAM Unit in writing so that arrangements may be made for copies to be forwarded.