



Medical Directive

Title: ED Request for Upper Abdominal Bloodwork

Number: 030.920.290

Activation Date: June 2019

Review due by: June 2022

Sponsoring/Contact Person(s)
(name, position, contact particulars):

Dr. Andrew Arcand, Chief of Emergency Services
Pirnavan Vivekanandan, Professional Practice Leader Emergency Services

Order and/or Delegated Procedure:

Appendix Attached: Yes No Title:

All Emergency Department (ED) Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), hereinafter known as ED nurses, may request **Upper Abdominal Bloodwork** for an adult patient in the absence of a physician. Abdominal Bloodwork will consist of the following laboratory studies:

- CBC
- Electrolytes
- Urea
- Creatinine
- Glucose
- Lipase
- Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP)
- Bilirubin
- ALT
- Beta HCG (females 18-50 years of age)

Recipient Patients:

Appendix Attached: Yes No Title:

Any adult patient greater than 18 years of age presenting to the Emergency Department prior to first contact with the attending physician who meets the conditions identified in this directive.

Authorized Implementers:

Appendix Attached: Yes No Title:

All ED nurses must have completed a MSHC ED orientation program that includes education on this specific medical directive and have demonstrated knowledge, skill and judgment in its usage to the Professional Practice Leader (PPL).

Indications:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>An ED nurse may initiate this directive if a patient presents with signs and symptoms of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper abdominal pain • Jaundice • Nausea & vomiting/Diarrhea • Drug overdose • Blunt abdominal trauma • Intoxication • Suspected pancreatitis or gall stones (i.e. <i>Upper abdominal pain that radiates to back, pain worsens after eating, nausea/vomiting, tenderness to palpation</i>) • Increased confusion or agitation from the patient's normal cognitive state for those 75 years and greater, that is validated by family members or the Long Term Care facility. 	
<p>Contraindications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient less than 18 years of age • Patient refusal to consent for procedure/treatment 	
Consent:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>ED nurses implementing this directive will obtain consent where possible from the patient or substitute decision maker prior to implementing this Medical Directive in accordance with Markham Stouffville Hospital's Health Care Consent policy #270.914.914.030, applicable College of Nurses standards and Health Care Consent Act.</p>	
Guidelines for Implementing the Order / Procedure:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>ED Upper Abdominal Bloodwork may be requested once the ED nurse has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed the patient to determine whether the specific patient condition(s) and situational circumstance(s) outlined in the directive have been met • Identified the risk(s) to the client of implementing the directive • The knowledge, skill and judgment to safely implement the directive • Determined whether management of possible outcomes is within their scope of practice and competency level • Determined if appropriate resources are available to implement the order and manage the possible outcomes • Identified who the attending physician is if clarification or assistance is needed 	
Documentation and Communication:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>Initiation of this medical directive will be electronically documented on the Emergency Triage Assessment or the <i>Emergency Patient Assessment (Major or Minor Assessment) within the Emergency Department Management (EDM)</i> module. The documentation will include all clinical findings/history in support of the initiation of the medical directive</p> <p>If the procedure was not ordered and / or performed at triage, the ED nurse will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the patient's condition and determine the need for ED Upper Abdominal Bloodwork • Document ED Upper Abdominal bloodwork ordered on the <i>Emergency Record (form# EDR)</i> in the doctor's order section and include both signature and time blood was sent to the lab. • Delegate order entry of ED Upper Abdominal Bloodwork to the unit secretary. <p>The Emergency physician will sign off for the implementation of the medical directive on the <i>Emergency Record (form# EDR)</i> in the physician Signature section which is equivalent to co-signing for the medical directive.</p>	

Review and Quality Monitoring Guidelines:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>Staff identifying any untoward or unintended outcomes arising from implementation of orders under this directive, or any issues identified with it will report these to the following people as soon as possible for appropriate disposition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending physician • Patient Care Manager • Quality and Risk Management (through I Report Incident reporting system) 	
Administrative Approvals (as applicable):	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>Emergency Department Operations Committee: June 18, 2019 Chief of Emergency Services: June 18, 2019</p>	
Approving Physician(s) / Authorizer(s):	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>All Emergency physicians at Markham Stouffville Hospital Corporation.</p>	

References:

Emergency Nurses Association (2007). *Emergency Nursing Core Curriculum, 6th Edition*. St. Louis: Saunders Elsevier

Howard, P. K, & Steinman, R. A. (2010). *Sheehy's Emergency Nursing Principles and Practice, 6th Edition*. St. Louis: Mosby.

Ontario Hospital Association (2008). Emergency Department (ED) Medical Directives Implementation Kit: Wait Time Strategies. Retrieved from [http://www.oha.com/KnowledgeCentre/Library/Toolkits/Pages/EmergencyDepartment\(ED\)MedicalDirectivesImplementationKit.aspx](http://www.oha.com/KnowledgeCentre/Library/Toolkits/Pages/EmergencyDepartment(ED)MedicalDirectivesImplementationKit.aspx)

