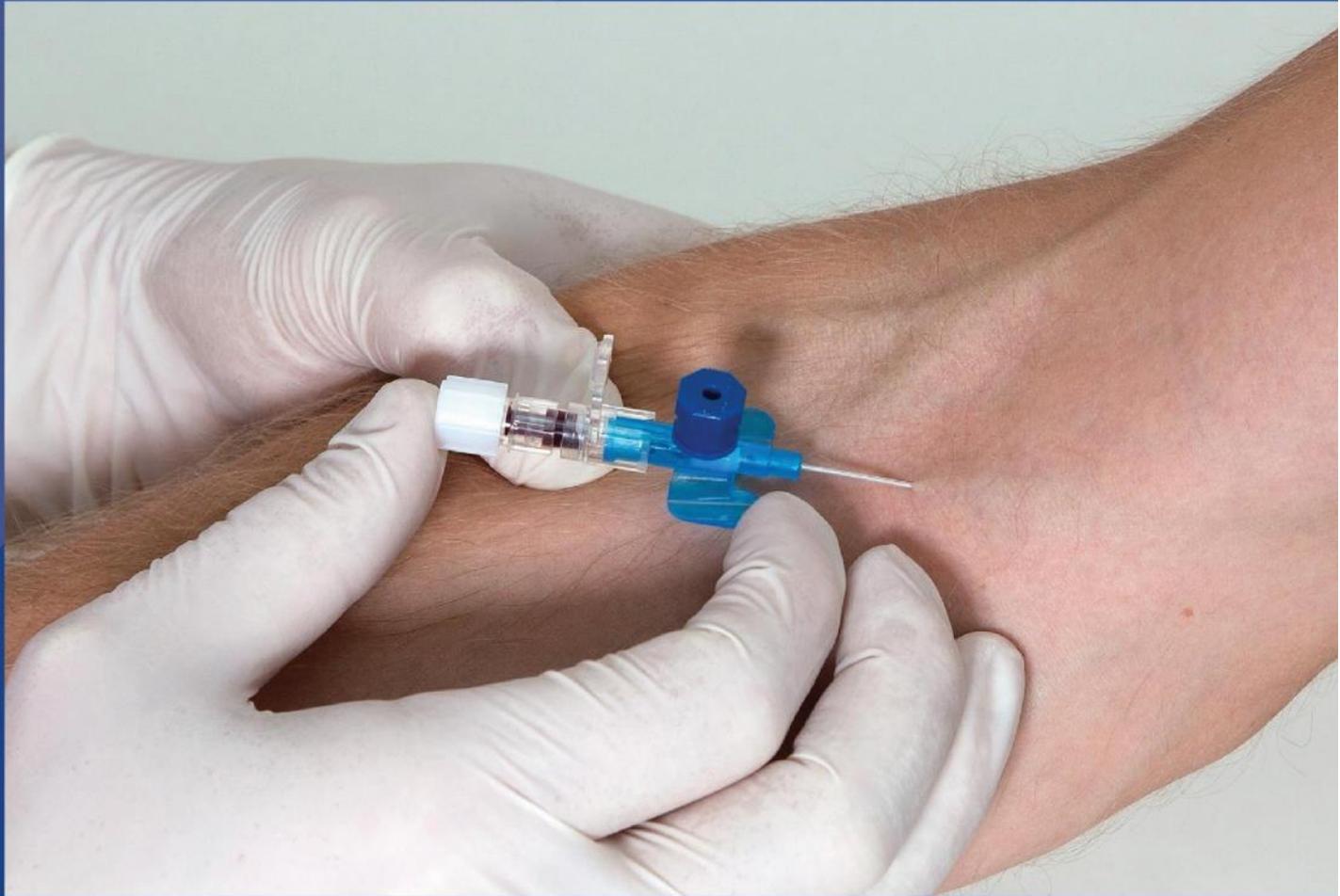


BENDIGO HEALTH
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



NURSE INITIATED
PATHOLOGY COMPETENCY
PACKAGE

Introduction

Patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) may require pathology tests in order to provide a diagnostic investigation for their presentation. It has been recognised that Nurse Initiated Pathology (NIP) ordered prior being seen by a medical officer can have a significant impact on the delivery of quality and timely care in the ED, can lead to increasing patient satisfaction and time to treatment.

Aim

The aim of this learning package is to:

- Support the introduction of NIP for ED patients that require diagnostic investigations
- To ensure registered nurses provide timely quality patient focused care and expedite the clinical decision-making process and ongoing patient care
- Reduce the number of incidents of inappropriate pathology tests through a predefined order set matrix
- Ensure sufficient documentation of pathology collection on EPR

This learning package is to be read in conjunction with the Policy on NIP. If further education is required, please see the CNC.

Purpose

After successfully completing the nurse-initiated pathology package the nurse will be able to:

- Order pathology early to facilitate timely intervention and management of the patient
- Decrease the waiting times of patients presenting to the ED that require pathology tests to make a clinical diagnosis, and improve staff and patient satisfaction
- Utilise the pathology test order matrix for patients who present to the ED within the inclusion criteria, who are waiting, and have not been seen by a medical officer (MO)
- If the patient is wanting to leave without being seen by a doctor it is the responsibility for the nurse whom has initiated the pathology to advise the MO in charge that bloods have been taken and the MO should then review pathology results (if available) and discuss with the patient before leaving the ED

Competency Assessment

Education and competency will include:

- Education regarding the correct use of the pathology ordering system (information required)
- The NIP order set matrix
- Escalation process for reported abnormal pathology results
- Completion of a theoretical learning package and quiz

Component One

Theoretical learning via an education package.

This package will include:

- Obtaining a patient history and carrying out a patient assessment
- Clinical indication for NIP
- Order set matrix pathology chart (refer to Appendix 2)
- Escalation process
- Documentation

Component Two

A post education test of ten questions with competency demonstrated by 100% correct answers.

Prerequisites for Competency

NIP is to be ordered by Registered Nurse, not applicable to non-triaged trained casual, pool and Graduate nurses in the Emergency Department at Bendigo Health. The registered nurse will only be permitted to NIP after successfully completing the two part competency package.

Inclusion Criteria for NIP

- Patient's > 16 years of age
- When pathology tests are clinically indicated on patient's presentation

Exclusion Criteria for NIP

- Patient's < 16 years of age

The Process

- Consider patient presentation and consult NIP test order matrix
- Before ordering consider:
 - Will the test provide useful clinical information?
 - Does the patient meet criteria?
- If answer to either/both of above is NO = then do not order
- If YES = order
- Before taking sample we must have the patients following details:
 - Informed verbal consent
 - Name
 - Date of birth (must be >16 years)
 - Medicare details
 - Next of Kin (NOK)
 - GP details

NIP Responsibilities

- Registered nurse will order pathology as per the order set matrix on EPR in the nurse initiated pathology tab under the order section
- After collecting the sample and sending to pathology, ensure EPR documentation states bloods have been taken via NIP order.

Escalation Process

- Abnormal results must be reported to current treating doctor and the MO in charge
- If the patient is wanting to leave without being seen, the triage nurse must ensure they have their pathology reviewed by a MO before leaving

Notes to take for Order Set Matrix

BHCG Pathology

- Only order BHCG pathology if urine BHCG has tested positive in bleeding in early pregnancy

Paracetamol Levels Pathology

- Order paracetamol levels for people who have taken an overdose 4 hours post ingestion

Police Bloods Pathology

- For all major trauma patients over the age of 15 years of age will need police bloods whether they are the driver or passenger

INR Pathology

- Nurses are able to initiate INR levels as per order set matrix if the patient is on warfarin

Appendix 1:

Nurse Initiated Pathology: Bendigo Health Emergency Department.													
Scope: Emergency Department, Registered Nurse												>16 years of age	
Tube: →	FBE	U&E	Trop	Lipase	BHCG	CRP	Paracetamol levels	LFT	Police Bloods	B/C	INR	BG/H	
Respiratory Illness	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	If Febrile	Red	Red	
Arrhythmia	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Chest Pain	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Stroke Call	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	If on warfarin	Red	Red	
Syncope/ Collapse	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Overdose	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Abdo Pain	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	If Febrile	Red	Red	
GI Bleed	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	If on warfarin	Yellow	
Febrile Neutropenia	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	If Febrile	Red	Red	
Fracture (Long Bone or NOF)	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	If on warfarin	Yellow	
Major Trauma	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	If on warfarin	Yellow	
Bleeding Early Pregnancy	Green	Red	Red	Red	If urine BHCG +ve	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Sepsis pathway	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	2 sets	If on warfarin	Red	
Always consider patient presentation and consider if results will yield practicable clinical information that will impact patient treatment.													
Responsibility Key:					Green: Collect				Yellow: Ask Reg/Consultant				Red: Do not take

ASSESSMENT

Once assessment is completed, please hand into CNC

Q1. Which is not one of the clinical indications for Nurse Initiated Pathology (NIP)?

- a) Patients over 16
- b) Patients under 16
- c) Investigations likely to provide useful clinical information

Q2. What will assist nurses to determine which pathology tests are required?

- a) The pathology order set matrix
- b) Pre-written pathology slips
- c) Order whatever they like
- d) The tests recommended by the Pathology provider i.e. Australian Clinical Labs

Q3. According to the order set matrix, which presentation should you not NIP for?

- a) Abdominal Pain
- b) Chest Pain
- c) Febrile Neutropenia
- d) DKA

Q4. A 31y.o. female presents with generalised upper quadrant abdominal pain for 3/7. Which bloods can be nurse initiated?

- a) COAGS , FBE, LIPASE, UEC
- b) LIPASE, FBE, UEC, LFT
- c) FBE, LFT, CRP, LIPASE

Q5. 8/40 gestation lady presents with PV bleeding. What must you do before nurse initiating BHCG blood test?

Q6. On the pathology order matrix set, a yellow box indicates:

- a) Any Nurse can initiate NIP
- b) Discussion with registrar or consultant is required
- c) Nurse unable to obtain NIP

Q7. Nurses are unable to initiate which pathology test

- a) FBE
- b) INR
- c) LFT
- d) Group and Hold

Q8. How would you determine if a patient requires pathology but you are unsure from their clinical presentation?

Q9. List the documentation required post ordering NIP?

Q10. Pt presents to triage at 22:30hrs stating they have taken a paracetamol overdose at 20:00hr. As per the order set matrix and NIP guidelines, when do we collect bloods?

- a) Straight away
- b) Wait till the 4-hour mark from ingestion of paracetamol levels to take bloods