

## **Position statement of The Hong Kong College of Pathologists on requesting and accessing medical laboratory testing for patient management**

Medical laboratory testing, within the specialty of Pathology, is an integral component of the practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery as provided under the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161. Pathologists are specialist medical practitioners with the recognized training and competence to supervise medical laboratory testing and to authorize release of test results to registered medical practitioners.

The Medical Laboratory Technologists Board of Hong Kong (the “Board”) is established under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance, Cap. 359. According to the Code of Practice issued by the Board for the Guidance of Registered Medical Laboratory Technologists (the “Code of Practice”):

“No person registered or provisionally registered under the Medical Laboratory Technologists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap.359A) should

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...

(c) perform any tests for the purpose of medical diagnosis and treatment in the absence of a referral from registered medical, dental and/or veterinary practitioners, or a person registered in respect of a medical clinic exempted under Section 8(1) of the Medical Clinics Ordinance, Cap. 343;

...

(e) knowingly disclose to any other unauthorised person information obtained through his or her professional work on a patient’s samples. Request for disclosure of specimen test results should be handled with due regard to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Cap. 486. Registered medical laboratory technologists are asked to acquaint themselves with the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.” (Section II, paragraph F, page 7 of the Code of Practice)

### Training and competence

Comprehensive training received by medical practitioners ensures possession of the necessary expertise to make appropriate request and proper interpretation of medical laboratory testing, the foundation of which is the study of Pathology.

Use of laboratory results by personnel without the requisite training and competence can potentially result in mismanagement of patients with harmful consequences.

### Position

Based on the above considerations, The Hong Kong College of Pathologists maintains the position that only registered medical practitioners can request and access medical laboratory testing for medical practice.