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**YOUR  
PHARMACIST:  
NOW MORE  
HELPFUL  
THAN  
EVER!**

# ORDER LABORATORY TESTS

YOUR PHARMACIST IS NOW AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. THE ORDRE DES PHARMACIENS DU QUÉBEC HAS PRODUCED **7 INFORMATION SHEETS** DESCRIBING EACH OF THESE NEW SERVICES.



Your pharmacist can now **order certain laboratory tests** to monitor the effectiveness and safety of your drug therapy.

### **Why would my pharmacist prescribe a laboratory test for me?**

Laboratory tests are tools now available to your pharmacist allowing him to monitor, in collaboration with your physician, that the drug you are taking is producing the desired effects.

They can also help him to identify and analyze problems related to a treatment in order to resolve or prevent them. Some tests can provide clues to how your body is reacting to the drugs.

### **Can my pharmacist order an X-ray?**

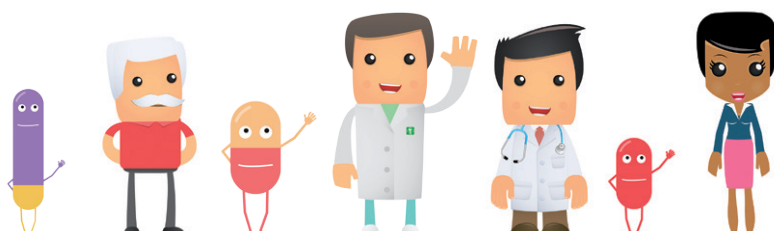
No. Your pharmacist does not diagnose, so he cannot order X-rays or other tests designed to help diagnose health problems. Pharmacists can order a limited range of tests that allow them to monitor the drugs you are taking. For instance, a test can show whether an anticoagulant medication is effective, or whether a drug is causing undesirable side effects on an organ such as your liver.

**How does my pharmacist obtain a laboratory test?**

Before ordering a test and to avoid duplications, your pharmacist must first ensure that recent results for the desired test are not already available. He will probably ask you whether you have had any blood tests recently and, if so, check to see if the tests match those that he requires. You are an important partner in this because you can tell your pharmacist about any tests you have had recently.

If necessary, your pharmacist will then order the required test and record the reasons in your file. When the test is done, your pharmacist will be informed of results. These results will also be shared with your physician, along with any actions taken by your pharmacist based on these results.

For instance, depending on the laboratory test results, no action may be necessary. In other situations, your pharmacist could also modify your drug therapy and regularly monitor it with you and your physician or might urge you to see your physician right away or go to the hospital emergency department if immediate care is needed.



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