

## PGL- 003

### Performing sample collection or testing on oneself or members of one's family

This practice guideline was developed to help Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT) understand their responsibilities around performing testing on oneself or members of one's family.

Collection of samples or testing on oneself or a member of one's own family poses several challenges for MLTs, including concerns about professional objectivity and conflict of interest<sup>1,2</sup>. Situations such as this may also place the MLT in a situation of moral dilemma if a serious diagnosis is discovered.

In general, MLTs should not collect or test samples from themselves or members of their own families. In emergency situations, e.g., when on-call, remote or rural locations or when obtaining samples that are urgently required and it cannot be practically conducted by another qualified MLT, it may be acceptable. In such situations, MLTs should not hesitate to collect samples or conduct testing on themselves or family members.

This guidance is similar to that outlined in the [Canadian Medical Association](#)<sup>3</sup> Code of Ethics:

*'7. Limit treatment of yourself, your immediate family, or anyone with whom you have a similarly close relationship to minor or emergency interventions and only when another physician is not readily available; there should be no fee for such treatment.'*

When these situations occur, the MLT involved should submit an employer notification form (if available), or notify their manager of the date, time, and details for documentation should any questions arise.

It is recommended that the MLT retain a record of the communication.

#### References

1. SSMLT Code of Ethics- SSMLT Regulatory bylaws Appendix A
2. SSMLT Standards of Practice
3. Canadian Medical Association- Code of Ethics

# Practice Guideline

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Council Chair:	T. Pearce SSMLT President
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### Revision Summary

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2022-05-17	1	Initial version