

Ontario Laboratories Information System

Special Note: Restriction Flagging Issue In OLIS-EMR Access

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Patients in Ontario have the right to indicate whether they want their lab test results shared through systems such as the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS). However, even if a patient indicates that they do not want lab test information shared, the provider(s) who ordered the test will still have access to the information. If a patient has a consent "restriction" in place, the ordering provider(s) can access the test information but should not share this information with non-ordering providers.

At present, when a health care provider uses an electronic medical record (EMR) to search for a patient's results in OLIS, and is named on all the results that are returned, there is no indication that the patient's consent has been withheld and that this information should thus not be shared with non-ordering providers. eHealth Ontario will add an indicator for all patient queries in the next release of OLIS scheduled for March 2012.

In the interim, health care providers who access patient lab test results through a practice-based EMR must ensure that they are aware of their patients' consent wishes concerning data collected from OLIS in order to determine whether a restriction is in place, prior to sharing the information with other health care providers.

If your patients have questions about OLIS privacy or wish to relay their consent directions, please direct them to Service Ontario at 1-800-291-1406. Patients may also be interested in the health bulletin issued by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, at www.ontario.ca/yourhealthprivacy.