SELF TESTING PRODUCTS GUIDELINE

1) Self Testing Products are devices approved by the federal government and are available to consumers to help them:
   a) diagnose a specific condition with symptoms,
   b) screen for a condition with symptoms, or
   c) monitor existing conditions

2) Any procedure associated with a self testing product which does not involve a invasive procedure may fall within the scope of Pharmacy practice. However, instruction in the use of devices to obtain minute blood samples, through a finger prick, would be permissible.

3) Pharmacy premises must include:
   a) adequate private space for on-site counselling,
   b) adequate private space for providing instruction
   c) proper equipment and procedures for disposal of "sharps" and contaminated materials as described in the Canadian Standards Association: "Handling of Waste Materials in Health Care facilities 1988", and
   d) confidential record keeping system that would include, but not be limited to, date, patient name, test performed and training results.

4) The following self tests may be taught and provided by the pharmacy:
   a) blood pressure
   b) pregnancy tests
   c) blood glucose monitoring
   d) pulmonary function test
   e) cholesterol tests

5) Checking procedures shall be incorporated into the explanation to verify the patient’s understanding of the testing procedure, the implications of results and the importance of doing, where applicable, control tests.

6) The patient shall receive instruction regarding the:
   a) appropriate use of the test,
   b) proper care and storage of the equipment and materials,
   c) the importance of equipment calibration and checks, where appropriate,
   d) correct procedure, and the importance thereof, for performing the test accurately,
   e) importance of using the self testing kit prior to the expiration date, and,
   f) factors that may provide for a "false" test (including the concurrent use of medication).

7) The patient shall be advised:
   a) the test is a supplement to medical care and not a substitute,
   b) the tests have inherent limitation, and
   c) a medical practitioner should validate the patient’s results when deemed appropriate to do so.
8) All test results will be held in the strictest confidence.

9) The pharmacist must offer follow-up appointments to observe technique and validation of "take home" tests, where applicable.

10) The person performing the tests or training the patient in a self test procedure, occurring in the pharmacy, must be trained and knowledgeable in the specific test.

11) The pharmacist manager may advertise the availability of self testing services.

12) The pharmacy manager is held responsible to ensure the principles described in this document are maintained within the pharmacy.