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Minimum retesting intervals are not endorsements of repeat testing. They are recommendations that any repeat testing should not be done sooner than the indicated intervals.

Lipase

Minimum Retesting Intervals

Advisory Panel Recommendations

1. Do not reorder lipase tests for monitoring patients with an established diagnosis of acute pancreatitis.
2. Do not reorder lipase tests for monitoring patients with an established diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis.

An exception to this recommendation is if there is clinical suspicion of acute-on-chronic pancreatitis, where lipase testing is required for diagnostic purposes.

Advisory Panel Implementation Advice

Recommendation 1: Not applicable.

Recommendation 2: To support reductions in unnecessary retesting, in outpatient or community settings, labs may consider implementing a 6-month hard stop minimum retesting interval.

Using Minimum Retesting Intervals in Practice

These minimum retesting interval recommendations are intended to inform decisions about repeat testing. Clinicians should exercise clinical judgment as there may be exceptions (e.g., certain patient populations) and scenarios in which the recommendations do not apply. Labs will need to consider their local context and the capabilities of the laboratory information system when implementing minimum retesting intervals.

For a more detailed look at the guidance produced by the Advisory Panel on Minimum Retesting Intervals for Lab Tests, view the full report on cadth.ca:

[Minimum Retesting Intervals for Lab Tests](#)



Choosing Wisely Canada is the national voice for reducing unnecessary tests and treatments in Canada. Using Labs Wisely is a national consortium of more than 150 hospitals committed to making a measurable impact on reducing low-value lab testing in Canada.

CADTH and Choosing Wisely Canada partnered to host an advisory panel that developed recommended minimum retesting intervals for 5 commonly used lab tests. We aim to support the appropriate use of health care resources by reducing unnecessary lab testing and its impact on patients, providers, health systems, and the environment.



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