

February 9, 2021

Ontario Health
130 Bloor Street West, 10th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1N5

Re: Use of B-Type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) and N-Terminal proBNP (NT-proBNP) as Diagnostic Tests in Adults with Suspected Heart Failure: Recommendation

The Ontario Association of Cardiologists (OAC) supports Ontario Health's recommendation, based on guidance from the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee, **for publicly funding natriuretic peptide (BNP or NT-proBNP) testing for the diagnosis of people with suspected heart failure in the community and emergency department settings.**

The measurement of BNP or NT-proBNP is an accepted biomarker for the diagnosis and management of patients with heart failure. The current lack of public funding for this testing in the community in Ontario is a major limitation to clinicians and their patients and requires adjustment.

The OAC represents Ontario's cardiologists, who are the specialists with in-depth expertise and experience in managing these patients. The evidence is unequivocal that natriuretic peptide testing has clinical benefit, and is in accordance with patient preferences, patient care equity and cost effectiveness. We urge the Ministry of Health to act on this recommendation and extend public funding for the expanded use of this important diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making tool in the interest of Ontario patients.

The OAC agrees with the need to ensure this testing is used only when appropriate. Consequently, we are offering to work with all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, to develop and communicate guidelines for its use by health care providers in these clinical settings.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John D. Parker, MD, FRCPC
Board Member

Richard Davies, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Board Member

On behalf of the OAC Board of Directors