

# Sonora Quest offers Direct Access Testing statewide

BY TAMARA JUAREZ

In response to HB 2645, Sonora Quest Laboratories is providing the public a new way to demand a variety of medical tests previously excluded from the Direct Access Test List managed by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

"Sonora Quest Laboratories is excited to help consumers play a more active role in their health by offering laboratory testing in a convenient, efficient and confidential way," said Sonora Quest Medical Director Dr. Robert Stern. "One of our top priorities is to provide innovative solutions to drive improved health outcomes for our patients and their families."

To accomplish this, Sonora Quest Laboratories introduced My Lab ReQuest, a new method of ordering and checking the status of Direct Access Tests. With My Lab ReQuest, consumers can order tests from an extensive menu, which includes screening for environmental/pollen allergies, diabetes, heart health, immunity and infectious diseases.

"All tests are available via an easy online ordering form on our website or at any of our 70 patient service center locations, and are fully transparent with price clearly indicated for each test," Stern said.

"Once completed, consumers have the choice of retrieving their results online through Sonora Quest's Patient Portal, or having them sent by email

or postal mail. Once a test is ordered, average turnaround time on testing ranges from one to five days depending on the test and the method of delivery."

Test prices range from \$7 to \$213 and depend on the type of test selected.

Sonora Quest Laboratories is committed to empowering consumers in Arizona to take control of their health and has prepared for the new age in health care consumerism and shifts in relationships between laboratories, patients and doctors. According to SB 2645, health care providers are not required to review test results, and private health insurance companies are not required to cover costs. Despite the controversy surrounding these points, Sonora Quest Laboratories is not worried about possible abuse from any party involved. Stern emphasized the importance of collaborative relationships.

"We remain convinced that the management of personal health is most effective when it involves a health care provider and see direct access testing as a tool that patients may use to take a more active role in understanding and managing their health," Stern said.

"We actively encourage patients to work with their health care providers to ensure that they get the most value and information out of their laboratory results."

Within the past 20 years, Sonora Quest Laboratories expanded its reach,



establishing 70 patient service centers throughout Arizona, serving consumers in rural and metropolitan areas. Sonora Quest Laboratories conducts more than 57 million diagnostic tests per year and is accredited by the College of American Pathologists, the gold standard in laboratory accreditation. All Direct Access Tests are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and ensure accurate patient diagnosis.

"Health care is rapidly evolving and we are committed to remaining the premier provider of innovative diagnostic testing and to continually evaluating new and innovative solutions for Arizona," Stern said.

Sonora Quest Laboratories, part of the largest integrated laboratory system in the United States, serves more than 23,000 patients daily throughout Arizona.

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## DELVING INTO SB 2645

The new Arizona health care law, effective July 3, will allow consumers greater access to medical testing and control over their health. The law states various limitations and conditions:

- Consumers can order any lab test directly from licensed labs without a physician's order.
- Health care providers are not required to review or act on results of a lab test that the health care provider did not request, nor will they be subject to liability or disciplinary action for failure to review or act on test results not authorized by the health provider.
- Private health insurance companies are not required to pay the costs of tests ordered by an Arizona resident.
- Test results must be delivered directly from the lab to the patient.
- Clinical laboratories are prohibited from filing claims for reimbursement for tests conducted without a health care provider's request or written authorization.



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## EARN EXTRA MONEY HELPING OUR COMMUNITY CONDUCT SPECIAL CENSUS

The City of Chandler is looking for U.S. Citizens at least 18-years-old to work as Census Enumerators to help update our population numbers. The jobs pay \$16.25 per hour, plus mileage and paid training.

Chandler is growing and we need an accurate population count to qualify for shared revenues the State of Arizona distributes to Chandler based on our population. These funds are needed to provide essential services such as public safety, street maintenance, and trash collection, plus city parks, libraries and neighborhood improvements.

You can help by becoming a Census Enumerator, visiting Chandler households and collecting a few facts about the



people that live there, including their name, age and the total number of people living in the home.

You must be able to work 25 to 40 hours per week, including evenings and weekends. You will be asked to take and pass a Census Bureau employment

test and undergo an FBI background check. Paid training will begin in September...and you'll begin knocking on the doors of Chandler residents from October through November, 2015.

Job requirements and applications can be down-

loaded from Chandler's 2015 Special Census website, [chandleraz.gov/census](http://chandleraz.gov/census). Save the completed application to your computer, and then email it to us at [Census.Jobs@chandleraz.gov](mailto:Census.Jobs@chandleraz.gov).

Or you can pick up an application at a number of City offices, including Chandler City Hall, the Center for the Arts, all Chandler libraries, and many of our recreation and aquatic centers. A complete list can be found on our Census website, [chandleraz.gov/census](http://chandleraz.gov/census). You can bring your completed application to Chandler Human Resources located in City Hall, 175 S. Arizona Ave., Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and we can get you scheduled to take the test with the U.S. Census Bureau!

