



COLLEGE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS OF MANITOBA

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Certification and Entry-Level Requirements for Medical Laboratory Assistantsⁱ

Position Statement

The College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Manitoba (CMLTM) believes that CSMLS national certification must be the entry-level qualification for Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) in Canada. The CSMLS competency profile equips MLAs with the required skills and knowledge to provide high quality medical laboratory services and to function as members of multidisciplinary health care teams, thereby enhancing the quality of patient care for all Canadians.

MLAs play a vital role in the provision of medical laboratory services in Canada. Their work relates primarily to the pre-analytical phase of laboratory testing, including specimen collection, specimen preparation and data entry.

In addition to keeping pace with rapid advances in the field of medical laboratory science, MLAs must be prepared to demonstrate strong interprofessional collaboration skills as they are required to interact with a variety of healthcare professionals, patients and clients. Consequently, entry-level medical laboratory assistants must develop diverse technical and broad-based skills including critical thinking, problem solving, and communication.

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science is the body responsible for national certification of MLAs. The CSMLS:

- Develops competency profiles in consultation with employers, practitioners and educators
- Establishes policies relating to the national certification examination
- Appoints candidates to the Examination Panels
- Revises competency profiles regularly, in an effort to include all pertinent, current and emerging scientific information.

CSMLS currently offers entry-level MLA certification examinations. CSMLS national certification ensures that MLAs possess the knowledge and skills they require to provide patients with high quality safe medical laboratory services.

References:

CSMLS Competency Profile Competencies Expected of an Entry-Level Medical Laboratory Assistant

ⁱ Adopted from CSMLS position statement: CSMLS Certification and Entry-Level Requirements for Medical Laboratory Assistants