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Support for Regulation: Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs)ⁱ

Position Statement

The College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Manitoba (CMLTM) endorses the regulation of medical laboratory assistants (MLAs) in Manitoba. As a key element of patient safety, regulation defines the practice of the medical laboratory profession, and describes the boundaries within which the profession operates.

The CMLTM supports employing MLAs in the medical workplace, providing that the MLA meets the following criteria:

- has relevant education and/or experience
- is certified with the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Sciences
- performs within his or her scope of practice and/or level of professional certification
- adheres to the CSMLS Code of Professional Conduct and Code of Ethics
- is accountable for his or her profession acts.

Implicit in these responsibilities is the need to maintain knowledge and skills at the appropriate level.

The purpose of professional regulation is to provide public assurance and protection. Regulation ensures that competent, qualified, registered medical laboratory assistants facilitate the provision of safe and ethical laboratory testing in Canada.

References:

1. Ernst EJ. Applied Phlebotomy. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins: 2005.
2. World Health Organization. WHO guidelines on drawing blood: best practices in phlebotomy. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO Press; 2010. 125 p.

ⁱ Adopted from CSMLS Position Statement Support for Regulation: Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs)