



STATE OF MARYLAND

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

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Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor – Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor – Van T. Mitchell, Secretary

State of Maryland's Office of Health Care Quality routinely surveys laboratories performing cytology testing biennially. In addition to these surveys, the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) statute requires that individuals performing cytology examinations be tested for their proficiency. Specifically, at Section 353(f)(4)(B)(iv) of the statute, a "periodic confirmation and evaluation of the proficiency of individuals involved in screening or interpreting cytological preparations, including announced and unannounced on-site proficiency testing of such individuals, with such testing to take place, to the extent practicable, under normal working conditions."

The current requirements for cytology proficiency testing are found in the CLIA regulations at 42 CFR Part 493, published February 28, 1992 and effective, September 1, 1992. Also per Maryland Annotated Code §17-202; Standards and inspections of medical laboratories and cytology laboratories; cytology proficiency testing program.

With the discontinuation of Maryland's Cytology Proficiency program there are two remaining CMS-approved cytology proficiency testing programs. The CMS-approved Cytology Proficiency Testing (PT) Programs for calendar year 2015 are the College of American Pathologists (CAP), and the American Society for Clinical Pathology program (ASCP).

All individuals (physicians and cytotechnologists) who examine or interpret gynecologic cytology specimens (Pap smears) must enroll and participate in one testing event annually. At the present time, only those individuals who examine gynecologic specimens must enroll and participate. A passing score on all cytology proficiency tests is 90%. Once a passing score is achieved for a calendar year, the cytology PT obligation is met for that year.

Financial obligations for enrollment and testing are the responsibility of the laboratory. Retesting is subject to individual policies of the PT program. Included are the pricing and forms for the two PT Programs. Please contact them for further details and enrollment.