

Position Statement

Support for Regulation: Medical Laboratory Professionals (MLPs)

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) endorses the regulation of medical laboratory professionals (MLPs)* in all jurisdictions across Canada. As a key element of patient safety, regulation defines the practice of medical laboratory science, establishes the requirements and qualifications necessary to practice in the medical laboratory profession, and describes the boundaries within which the profession operates.

The CSMLS supports employing MLPs in the medical workplace, providing that the MLP meets the following criteria:

- has relevant education and/or experience
- is certified with the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
- performs within their scope of practice and/or level of professional certification
- meets the requirements for licensure in their jurisdiction
- adheres to the CSMLS Code of Professional Conduct**
- is accountable for their professional acts.

Implicit in these responsibilities is the need to maintain the knowledge, skills and judgment commensurate with the appropriate professional level. It is mandatory for regulated MLPs to meet identified competency requirements and to undergo continued competency training.

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

**The CSMLS acknowledges the diversity of the job titles for MLPs in Canada and has selected this term as it relates to the National Competency Profiles. Reference to the title MLP includes, but is not limited to: medical laboratory technologist, medical laboratory assistant, clinical genetics technologists, medical laboratory technician, and registered technologist.*

*** some regulators may have a Code that supersedes CSMLS*