

Position Statement

Medical Laboratory Professionals: Integral to Patient Safety

It is the position of the CSMLS that Medical Laboratory Professionals play a vital role in ensuring patient safety in the delivery of health care services.

Individual medical laboratory professionals, other health care professionals, health care organizations, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, unions, accreditation organizations, governments and the public share this responsibility.

The CSMLS promotes the Canadian Patient Safety Institute's Safety Competencies Framework, that defines six points of safety:

- A commitment to applying core patient safety knowledge, skills and attitudes to everyday work.
- Working within interprofessional teams to optimize both patient safety and quality of care.
- Promoting patient safety through effective communication.
- Anticipating, recognizing and managing situations that place patients at risk.
- Optimizing human and environmental factors in managing the relationship between individual and environmental characteristics in order to optimize patient safety.
- Recognizing the occurrence of an adverse event or close call and responding effectively to mitigate harm to the patient, ensure disclosure and prevent recurrence.¹

Medical laboratory professionals shall demonstrate accountability for patient safety by maintaining competency to practice, working towards best practice, communicating appropriately and effectively with patients and related health care providers, participation in systems-based learning as well as through attention and adherence to appropriate safety and infection control practices.²

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) is dedicated to ensuring that medical laboratory services provided to the public by its members are delivered in a safe and ethical manner. The CSMLS is committed to supporting and promoting patient safety through disseminating information related to safety issues, risks and threats, providing website resources to members, reinforcing standards related to safety, supporting partnership activities with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and supporting best practices.³

References:

Canadian Physiotherapy Association, Position Statement on Patient Safety, February 2007

Canadian Nurses Association, Position Statement, Patient Safety, February 2009

Frank, JR, Brien S, (Editors) on behalf of The Safety Competencies Steering Committee. The Safety Competencies: Enhancing Patient Safety Across the Health Professions. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Patient Safety Institute; 2008

¹ Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Safety Competencies Framework.

² Canadian Physiotherapy Association, Position Statement on Patient Safety

³ Ibid.