

Position Statement

The Use of Standards in the Medical Laboratory

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) supports using consensus-developed standards for Medical Laboratory Science to enhance and ensure quality healthcare for all Canadians.

Standards are documents that specify safety and/or performance requirements for products, processes and services. In addition, they may also outline industry guidelines and summarize good practices. Standards must be revised and reviewed regularly to accurately reflect changes in technological advances and stakeholder needs. Although adherence to standards is usually voluntary, legislation mandates compliance in some jurisdictions.

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science believes that:

- Canadian Medical Laboratory Professionals must participate in national and international standards development and revision.
- Key stakeholders, standards organizations and governments must support initiatives to ensure quality healthcare.
- Medical laboratory professionals must remain informed about evolving standards in their specific laboratory discipline(s).

Well-recognized organizations have produced standards for the medical laboratory sciences such those listed below. CSMLS recommends that Canadian medical laboratories adopt current standards where applicable.

Sample of Current Standards:

CAP-ACP – Canadian Association of Pathologists

CAP – College of American Pathologists

CGSB - Canadian General Standards Board

CSA- Canadian Standards Association

CLSI – Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute

ISO – International Standards Organization

IQMH – Institute for Quality Management in
Healthcare

AC – Accreditation Canada