

POSITION STATEMENT

Accreditation Requirements for Phlebotomy Services

Purpose

Position statements from the College provide background information and express or clarify the College's intent on a particular matter. They are intended as guidance for stakeholders in areas where events are evolving or changing rapidly, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses the Diagnostic Accreditation Program's (DAP) response to inquiries about accreditation requirements for phlebotomy services.

Background

Specimen collection is a foundational component of high-quality, safe diagnostic services. Improper specimen collection risks the integrity of the diagnostic service and may invalidate diagnostic test results and result in patient harm. In response to the potential of harm to patients, the College has identified specimen collection to be in scope of the DAP laboratory medicine accreditation standards.

Specimen collection is a broad classification of medical procedures that range from non-invasive patient led activities (e.g. mid-stream urine collection) to restricted medical procedures that may only be performed by select approved regulated medical professionals (e.g. lumbar punctures).

Phlebotomy, also known as venipuncture, is the collection of blood samples for the purpose of analysis. Specimen collection is a service that may be performed by:

- regulated health-care professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners and registered nurses.
- unregulated health-care professionals, including medical laboratory technologists, medical laboratory assistants, combined laboratory and x-ray technologists.

Position

The DAP's requirements for accreditation of facilities performing phlebotomy services are as follows:

- Accreditation is required if:
 - Phlebotomy services are performed by
 - unregulated healthcare professionals, or
 - regulated healthcare professionals whose scope of practice does not include phlebotomy.
 - Specimens are processed or otherwise manipulated (e.g. centrifuged, specimen aliquoting or pre-treatment) following phlebotomy services by allied health-care professionals or regulated health-care professionals regardless of approved scope of practice.
- Accreditation is not required if:
 - Phlebotomy services are performed by regulated health-care professionals whose scope of practice includes phlebotomy and specimens are not processed or otherwise manipulated prior to forwarding to an accredited diagnostic facility.

References

- Section 5-26(2) of the Bylaws
- DAP Position Statement: *Point of Care Laboratory Diagnostic Tests Exempt from Accreditation*

Contact

For further information, please contact DAP@cpsbc.ca.