



## SSMLT Position Statement

### Medical Laboratory Technology: Education and Practice

#### 1. Background

The SSMLT is the professional licensing body that regulates medical laboratory technologists (MLTs) in Saskatchewan.

There are several laboratory professional groups working in medical laboratories in Saskatchewan. While MLTs are self-regulated, other laboratory personnel are not. Laboratory professionals include but are not limited to:

- Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs)
- Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technologists (CLXT)
- Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLA)
- Phlebotomists
- 'Relevant' Degree persons

MLTs may be licensed by SSMLT following graduation from a Canadian Accredited Medical Laboratory Technology Program or through Prior Learning Assessment conducted by Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science to those applicants that have successfully challenged the CSMLS certification exam in any of the following three practice areas:

- MLT- General Practice
- MLT- Diagnostic Cytology
- MLT- Clinical Genetics

#### Role of the SSMLT

The SSMLT's obligation to act in the public interest derives from the authority delegated to it by government under the *Medical Laboratory Technologists Act, 1995*<sup>1</sup>. The development of the registration and certification requirements<sup>2</sup>, standards of practice<sup>3</sup>, code of ethics<sup>2</sup>, continuing professional education requirements<sup>4</sup>, practice hours requirements<sup>5</sup> and the investigation of complaints of SSMLT's members in the public interest, is fundamental to effectively exercise that authority.

#### 2. SSMLT Position

##### Statement on Education and Practice of Medical Laboratory Professionals

Current pressures on the health care system that affect the services and operations performed in medical laboratories, such as rising costs, health employer reorganization, and recruitment and retention deficits, may strain the capacity of medical laboratories to assign the roles and responsibilities of medical laboratory professionals in a manner that effectively addresses the public interest.

It is the position of the SSMLT, that in order to recognize the proper functioning of tests and/or equipment and to provide reliable results, a medical laboratory professional must have education<sup>6</sup>, training<sup>6</sup> and competence<sup>6</sup> in the specimen collection, handling, testing, reporting, quality control procedures as well as the knowledge of the underlying analytical concepts.

The SSMLT acknowledges the role and responsibilities of medical laboratory professionals within the scope of the formal education and training they have received as supported by accreditation standards<sup>6,9,10,11</sup> and legislative guidelines<sup>6,7</sup>. Should a medical laboratory professional be required to provide medical laboratory testing and/or services outside their scope of formal education and training they must first be required to obtain the necessary formal education and training. Competence must be demonstrated under direction of a duly qualified and competent medical laboratory professional formally educated and trained in the area to be assessed prior to performing expanded laboratory testing and/or services. The facility laboratory license must reflect the qualifications and test capabilities of each medical laboratory professional <sup>6,7</sup>. Any liability associated with expanded duties, will be assumed by the employer and the medical laboratory professional who performs the laboratory tests and/or services.

SSMLT and Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT's) will continue to work collaboratively with a broad scope of health care professionals by providing strong clinical laboratory expertise and leadership.

## References:

1. [Saskatchewan Medical Laboratory Technologists Act, 1995](#)
2. [SSMLT regulatory bylaws, 2018](#)
3. [SSMLT Standards of Practice, 2018](#)
4. [SSMLT Continuing Professional Education policy, 2018](#)
5. [SSMLT Practice Hours policy, 2018](#)
6. ISO 15189: 2012- *Technical Requirements Medical Laboratories*  
5.1.2 Personnel Qualifications  
*"Personnel making judgments... have the applicable theoretical and practical background and expertise"*
7. *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Regulations, 1995.*  
<http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/M9-2R1.pdf>
8. M-9.2 Reg 1 - *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Regulations, 1995.*  
<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/M9-2R1.pdf>
9. Canadian Standards Association -CSA Z902-15-4.3.3.1, 4.3.3.2, 4.3.3.4,4.3.6.2, 14.4.2
10. Canadian Standards Association- CSA Z316.7-12- 9.5, 9.6
11. Canadian Standard Association- CSA 9.10; Accreditation Canada- 6.7; ISO 15189- 5.1.8