Advisory to cytotechnology programs
Re: revision to national competency profile

The Committee on Conjoint Accreditation has accepted a revised national competency profile for use in the accreditation of cytotechnology (diagnostic cytology) programs.

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science’s (CSMLS) Competency Profile - Diagnostic Cytology – Competencies expected of an entry-level cytotechnologist (dated 2014) will be used for accreditation surveys effective April 2016. This profile will replace the previous version (dated 2008). The revised profile is available on the CSMLS website (www.csmls.org). CSMLS has advised that the first exam sitting on the revised profile will be June 2017.

Revisions include:
- A change from 8 categories to 10
- Specific categories created for Critical Thinking and Communication & Interaction
- Changes in the assumptions about the cytotechnologist
- Additions, modification and some elimination of competencies

Accreditation surveys and reporting requirements

Critical criterion 1.3
Validation of critical criterion 1.3 – Cross-reference of curriculum to the competency profile (Program self-assessment report and accreditation visit)

Programs scheduled for their regular survey visit in August 2016 or later must cross reference their program to the 2014 version of the competency profile as part of the evidence submitted with their program self-assessment report (see 2014 Requirements for accreditation handbook, critical criterion 1.3).

Critical criterion 1.5
Validation of critical criterion 1.5 – Attainment of competencies – Student records

After June 2017, programs are expected to provide verifiable data confirming the students’ attainment of competencies in the 2014 CSMLS competency profile.

See the 2014 Requirements for accreditation handbook, criterion 1.5, for more information on the type of evidence to be submitted for this criterion.

It is possible, depending on the scheduled time of the visit, that the 2014 version of the competency profile will be used to assess critical criterion 1.3, while the 2008 version of the competency profile will be used to assess critical criterion 1.5.
Reporting requirement

Accredited cytotechnology programs must demonstrate compliance with the 2014 version of the competency profile by **April 18, 2016** by submitting a report to CMA Accreditation. The report must include a cross reference of program curriculum to the 2014 version of the competency profile, and be accompanied by the course outlines that validate inclusion of all the competencies in the curriculum. For programs visited in the fall of 2016, this evidence will be assessed as part of their self-assessment report.

Evidence should be submitted electronically, either on a USB key, through an electronic management system or by email.

Communication with CMA Accreditation

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about this change in the competency profile for cytotechnology.