



NBSMLT Position Statement on the Practice of Medical Laboratory Technology

The New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (NBSMLT) has a mandate provided by the *Medical Laboratory Technology Act*. The purpose of this mandate is to advance and to maintain the standard of medical laboratory technology in New Brunswick, to govern and regulate medical laboratory technology services provided to the public and provide for the welfare of members of the public and the NBSMLT.

Pursuant to the *Act*, only registered members of the Society can practise medical laboratory technology. Subsection 2(1) of the *Act* provides a definition of medical laboratory technology as follows:

“medical laboratory technology” means the performance of laboratory investigations relating to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and the evaluation of their technical validity, on specimens taken from the human body;”

NBSMLT is responsible to ensure the practice of medical laboratory technology is performed by competent trained professionals. Performances of analytical processes as outlined above and in the *Act*, by persons other than those whose names are entered in the register of the NBSMLT, are a violation of the *Act* and such persons are subject to the consequences as outlined in Part IV of the *Act*.

Any human health testing that is performed outside of an accredited medical laboratory by uncertified, non-medical personnel poses a risk to patient safety, as any results obtained through such uncontrolled methods are unvalidated and unreliable. There is a danger in providing members of the public with a false sense of security through negative results obtained through unreliable measures. Unauthorized testing conducted outside of the regulated established framework also poses risks to the protection of patient confidentiality. The NBSMLT continues to protect patient safety through the regulation of medical laboratory technology services.