



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;”

The 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.

The use of non certified individuals to perform diagnostic testing must be done with great care. Certified MLTs are an integral component in the effort to deliver COVID-19 test results. The theoretical knowledge at the BSc and MSc graduate level may be similar to an MLT, but the application is worlds apart. Medical Laboratory Technologists are the most qualified personnel because of their very specific knowledge, skills and critical thinking. The education of an MLT is unique, as are all programs for healthcare professionals. The roles of these uncertified personnel must be appropriate for their skills and training and they should always be under the direct supervision of a certified and licenced medical laboratory technologist. The consideration of the use of uncertified and unlicensed personnel would lead to lowering standards with increased patient risk. Any testing performed by a non-MLT within a federally-accredited facility, such as a satellite National Microbiology Lab, would have to meet all due diligence in assuring public safety and assume all liability for test results issued.

The NBSMLT strongly urges federal testing facilities to follow the regulatory requirements in the Province of New Brunswick and utilize only certified registered Medical Laboratory Technologists to engage in the practice of Medical Laboratory Technology as defined. The NBSMLT continues to protect patient safety through the regulation of medical laboratory technology services.