



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Attention County Health Department Personnel

Overview of 2022 ACHDLS CLIA Survey & Forthcoming Quality Process Improvements

The ACHDLS biennial CLIA/CMS survey held on 04/20/22 & 04/21/22 found the laboratory system in substantial compliance, but four citations were received due to incomplete Wet Mount competency assessments for testers. Technical Consultants were notified on 5/27/22 that the corrective action plan, in response to the citations, had been accepted by the surveyors.

As a result of the citations, and in accordance to the corrective action plan, the competency program for the Wet Mount method must be revamped to ensure all six required procedures. Currently, the most feasible alternative is for staff performing Wet Mount testing be observed virtually on the Telehealth camera by a Technical Consultant while running a mock test as part of their annual or biannual competency assessment. Technical Consultants are working on the details and will soon send out a schedule of time slots for analysts to sign up for these assessments. In the mean time, Wet Mount staff are recommended to visit the Lotus Document Library and read the CMS brochure titled “*What do I need to do to assess personnel competency?*” It can be found in the “ACHDLS” category, and “Assessing Personnel Competency” sub-heading.

During the biennial survey, the surveyor also indicated several areas where quality processes could be improved. As a result, the ACHDLS will be implementing the quality improvements listed below.

- Many of the waived tests run by the ACHDLS have humidity requirements and County Health Department (CHD) staff will now be required to take a humidity reading daily. Information on ordering humidity meters and a humidity log sheet will be provided soon.
- Previously, room temperatures were only taken on days where the HemoCue or Alere/Abbott machines were used. Going forward, temperatures must be taken each day the clinic is staffed to see patients.
- Until a full manual revision is approved by the laboratory director, Technical Consultants will provide updated parts/chapters of the ACHDLS Policies and Procedures manual to the CHDs. The new parts will include new testing methods that were not included when the manual was originally written.
 - Also, regardless of what methods are run by a CHD, each clinic will be required to have a copy of the entire manual including copies of all applicable package inserts behind the waived tests chapter.
- Technical Consultants will write a SOP to cover all steps of Proficiency Testing events and a SOP for competency evaluation.

The items in this list that are policy changes will be added to the next revision of the ACHDLS Policies and Procedures Manual.

Please contact Jamie Hodges at 290-3116 or Ashley Megelin at 334-290-3118 if you have questions regarding this bulletin.

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