The Joint Commission recently concluded an evaluation of its laboratory accreditation program to ensure that it continues to support clinical best practice guidelines and contemporary issues in laboratory medicine. This evaluation, which included expert panel discussions, a six-week field review, and pilot testing, resulted in new and revised standards and elements of performance (EPs) in the “Document and Process Control” (DC) chapter, the “Information Management” (IM) chapter, the “Performance Improvement” (PI) chapter, and the “Quality System Assessment for Nonwaived Testing” (QSA) chapter of the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Laboratory and Point-of-Care Testing (CAMLAB).

In addition, The Joint Commission identified three redundant EPs in the QSA chapter of the CAMLAB. These redundant EPs were deleted from CAMLAB to streamline the laboratory survey process.

The above changes to the CAMLAB are effective July 1, 2013, and will appear in the 2013 Update 1 to the CAMLAB as well as the spring 2013 E-dition® update. To view the changes to the requirements, visit The Joint Commission’s Prepublication Standards webpage at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. New text is underlined and deleted text is shown in strikethrough.

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