**ACCEPTED:** New and Revised Laboratory Requirements to Align with Relevant CLIA Regulations

As announced in last month’s issue of *Perspectives* (see August 2012 *Perspectives*, pages 6–7), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently renewed The Joint Commission’s deeming authority for the accreditation of clinical laboratories. In response to the review of its application for deeming authority, The Joint Commission developed one new and one revised element of performance (EP) for the laboratory accreditation program to demonstrate equivalency to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA ’88).

The new and revised EPs (**effective August 27, 2012**) will be available in the E-dition® in September and will appear in the 2012 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Laboratory and Point-of-Care Testing, scheduled for publication in fall 2012.

The box below displays the new and revised requirements; new text is **underlined** and deleted text is shown in **strikethrough**. For more information, contact Donna Gillespie, MBA, CSSGB(ASQ), MT(ASCP)SM, associate project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at dgillespie@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5935.

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**Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements**

**New and Revised Laboratory Requirements**

**Applicable to Laboratories**

**Effective August 27, 2012**

**Quality System Assessment for Nonwaived Testing (QSA)**

**Standard QSA.08.04.01**

The laboratory establishes workload limits for staff who perform primary cytology screening.

**Element of Performance for QSA.08.04.01**

A 7. **Records are maintained** for each staff member workload records of the total number of cytology slides examined, regardless of the site or laboratory, and the number of hours spent examining slides for each 24-hour period.

**Standard QSA.08.07.01**

The cytology technical supervisor reviews cytology slides.

**Element of Performance for QSA.08.07.01**

A 3. **All gynecologic and nongynecologic test reports reviewed by a technical supervisor have a written or secured electronic signature.**

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