The Joint Commission recently approved a revision for the laboratory accreditation program regarding the frequency of review for laboratory procedures. Historically, it has been considered clinical best practice to conduct reviews of laboratory procedures on an annual basis. Due to the ever-increasing number of laboratory procedures requiring evaluation, however, the volume of annual reviews has reached unmanageable proportions within contemporary clinical laboratories.

To avoid creating unnecessary burden for its accredited laboratories, The Joint Commission changed the frequency of procedure review from one year to two years in Leadership (LD) Standard LD.04.05.09, Element of Performance 10. This revision is effective July 1, 2013, and will appear in the 2013 Update 1 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Laboratory and Point-of-Care Testing (CAMLAB) as well as the spring 2013 E-dition® update. The box below displays the revised requirement; new text is underlined and deleted text is shown in strikethrough.

For more information, contact Donna Gillespie, associate project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at dgillespie@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5935.

Approved: Revised Laboratory Requirement for Frequency of Procedure Review

Element of Performance for LD.04.05.09
A 10. © The laboratory director or designee annually reviews, and approves, and documents approval of each laboratory procedure every two years. This review and approval is documented. (See also DC.02.01.01, EP 1)