



**CAMLPR**   
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Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory  
Professionals Regulators

Alliance canadienne des organismes de réglementation  
des professionnels de laboratoire médical

# **CAMLPR Position Statement**

## **Regulation of Medical Laboratory Assistants and Technicians in Canada**

September 13, 2023

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## **CAMLPR Position Statement**

### **Regulation of Medical Laboratory Assistants and Technicians in Canada**

#### **Background**

The Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory Professionals Regulators (CAMLPR) exists to provide an infrastructure and forum through which regulators of medical laboratory professionals in Canada can anticipate and respond to regulatory challenges and opportunities on interprovincial, territorial, national and global levels.

Recognizing and respecting the regulatory autonomy of each member, CAMLPR's recommendations focus on regulation and the role of health profession regulatory bodies congruent with the core mandate of each member; protection of the public interest ([www.camlpr.org](http://www.camlpr.org)).

CAMLPR members regulate medical laboratory technologists (MLTs). However, in the clinical laboratory, unregulated medical laboratory assistants and technicians also play a significant role in patient care and are an integral part of the health care team, working closely with MLTs through the laboratory pathway.

#### **Position Statement**

CAMLPR endorses the regulation of medical laboratory assistants and technicians by a regulatory body governing MLTs. This position is founded on three key pillars:

##### **a) Regulation ensures public safety**

Regulation ensures that competent, qualified, registered medical laboratory assistants and technicians provide of safe and ethical laboratory services in Canada. Regulating medical laboratory assistants and technicians under the same legislative framework as medical laboratory technologists supports public trust throughout the entire laboratory testing pathway.

Regulation would clearly define medical laboratory assistants and technicians scope of practice, their entry-to-practice and educational requirements, professional responsibilities related to registration and continued competence, and would provide a publicly accessible complaints and disciplinary process.



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**b) Regulation mitigates unnecessary risk to the public**

Medical laboratory assistants and technicians are the principal interface between the medical laboratory and the public through specimen collection. Regulation would provide the public with recourse to public complaints and disciplinary process in the event of a misadventure.

**c) Regulation supports health human resource capacity**

Regulating medical laboratory assistants and technicians will ensure that there are more qualified professionals available to perform the vital laboratory work required to sustain and support our health care system. This would occur by maximizing efficiencies, leading to an expanded role for these professionals and broadened responsibilities which support effective human resource analysis and planning in the clinical laboratories.

CAMLPR strongly believes that the regulation of medical laboratory assistants and technicians will address the three pillars described in this position paper, which are in line with national labour mobility provision. CAMLPR members have a long-standing history of regulating medical laboratory technologists and have the expertise and the appropriate framework and systems in place to provide for the regulation of medical laboratory assistants and technicians.