





COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS
Laboratory Quality Solutions

CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program

Your path to excellence starts here.



 **CAP**
ACCREDITED ✓
COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Partner with a global leader in medical laboratory accreditation.

Whether you're an established lab or just starting out, CAP accreditation sets the standard for excellence. From routine panels to complex tests, the CAP elevates quality and builds confidence, keeping you ahead of changes in laboratory medicine with insights from global experts.

Be Confident With the Depth and Expertise of the CAP

General Checklists:

- All Common
- Director Assessment
- Laboratory General

Discipline-Specific Checklists:

- Anatomic Pathology
- Biorepository*
- Chemistry and Toxicology
- Clinical Biochemical Genetics
- Cytogenetics
- Cytopathology
- Flow Cytometry
- Forensic Drug Testing*
- Hematology and Coagulation
- Histocompatibility
- Immunology
- Limited Service Laboratory
- Microbiology
- Molecular Pathology
- Point-of-Care Testing
- Reproductive Laboratory Medicine *
- Transfusion Medicine
- Urinalysis

* CAP Specialty Accreditation Programs



Discipline-Specific Requirements

Provided in 21 specialized checklists with input from pathologists and lab professionals who have real-world experience and clinical expertise.



Customized Checklists

Tailored for your specific testing activities so only relevant requirements apply—saving staff time and ensuring they know exactly what to prepare and expect.



Annual Updates

Reviewed regularly to reflect the latest advances, technology, and global standards—keeping your lab and staff current and proficient in best practices.



Clear Guidance

Detailed, with not just the requirements, but how to meet them—including examples of evidence of compliance, notes, and references.

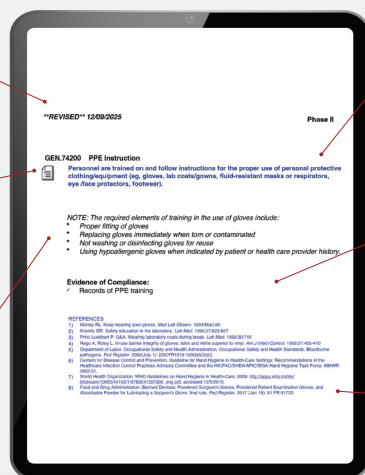
Discover the Value of In-depth Laboratory Medicine Knowledge

Our checklists span across the laboratory—at the management and bench level—providing a common foundation for diverse teams. They're infused with best practices, fostering learning and quality improvement.

Indicates NEW or REVISED for ease of identification

Document icon visually represents that a written policy or procedure is required

Notes and practical examples are included to clarify the requirements

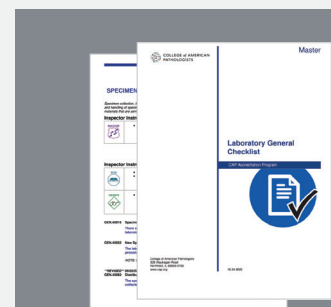


Checklist Requirement Example

Accreditation requirement stated for the specific checklist item

Compliance suggestions demonstrate ways to satisfy the requirements

References publications, guidelines, and standards from OSHA, WHO, CLSI, etc.



Scan to request a sample checklist

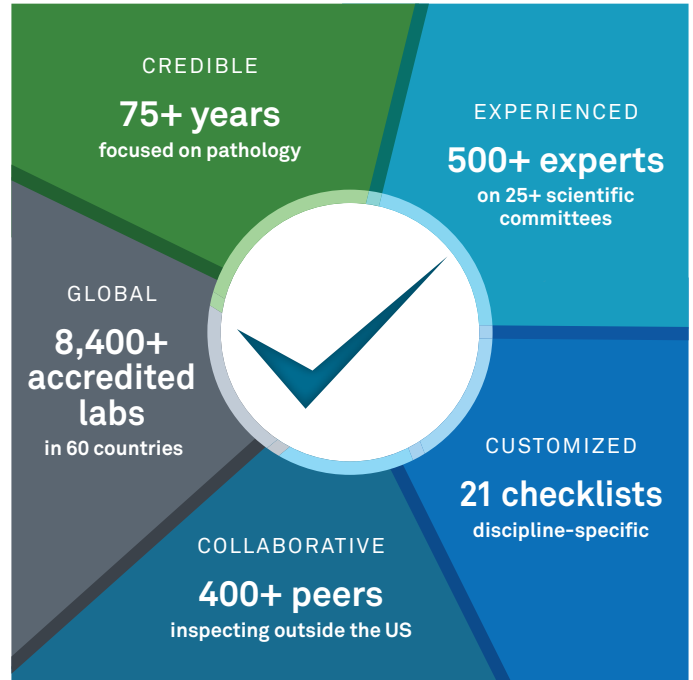
Importance of Laboratory Accreditation

Laboratory accreditation is a process through which an independent body certifies that a lab meets defined quality standards to ensure that their methods, equipment, and personnel produce accurate, reliable results.

Accreditation of a lab usually entails:

- Technical evaluation, including review of their quality management system
- On-site assessment to verify quality and competence
- Periodic audits to ensure continued compliance and improvement

Why Choose the CAP for Accreditation?



Integrating CAP PT/EQA + Accreditation: Enhanced Quality and Smarter Risk Management

Labs outside the US and Canada must participate in CAP proficiency testing/external quality assessment (PT/EQA) for at least six months before applying for CAP accreditation to demonstrate readiness and commitment to a comprehensive quality program.

Simplifies preparation for accreditation process and inspection

Provides external oversight of PT/EQA performance

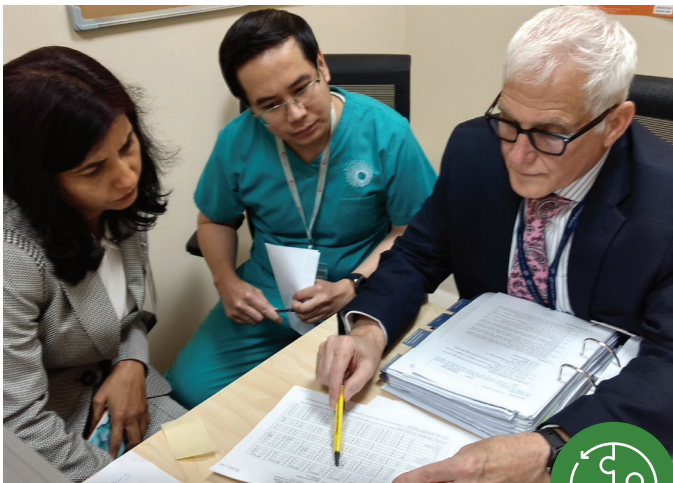
Facilitates monitoring, analyzing, and reporting across both programs



The CAP: Exclusively Focused on Laboratory Medicine

Since the organization began in 1946, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has been dedicated to improving the quality of laboratory medicine. Throughout the 1960s, the CAP worked to set the standards—including developing checklists and establishing an accreditation program with inspections—that still serve as the basis for ensuring exceptional patient care.

Spirit of Sharing and Supporting— Elevating Quality and Success Together



Collaborative Approach



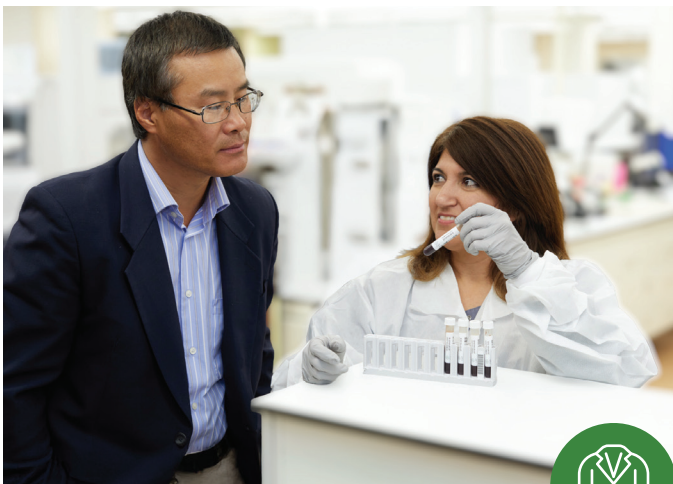
The CAP peer inspection model provides a mutually-beneficial interaction for learning and growth—inspectors share best practices and gain insights.



Discipline-Specific Expertise



Inspectors are aligned to your lab's services and specialties and use multiple methodologies, ensuring a relevant and robust review of every lab section.



Practical Knowledge



CAP inspectors are trained, practicing laboratory professionals who understand the workflows and challenges you face because they encounter them too.



In-depth Inspection



Guided by your lab's customized CAP checklists, the inspection team will conduct a comprehensive and educational examination of your laboratory.

Be Part of a Truly Global Standard of Laboratory Excellence

60
countries

6
continents

8,400+
labs worldwide



Preferred by Top Labs

We're trusted by world-renowned labs, who also contribute their expertise through participation on our committees and inspection teams.



Same Requirements Worldwide

The clear requirements of our detailed checklists hold every accredited laboratory—anywhere in the world—to the same high-quality standards.



Competitive Advantage to Drive Growth

CAP accreditation differentiates your laboratory by delivering standardized, internationally recognized processes that unlock new growth opportunities—locally and beyond your borders.



Exclusive Laboratory Medicine Focus With Continuous Improvement

CAP-accredited labs benefit from insights gained from global inspections and annually-updated checklists to keep pace with rapidly-changing health care needs.

TOP 100
US Hospitals¹
95%



1. Based on *Newsweek.com*

"The World's Best Hospitals 2026," February 2026.



**Already applied for a
CLIA license?**

The CAP holds deemed status with the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and can inspect for both CLIA and CAP accreditation—simply indicate this when applying.



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Laboratory Quality Solutions

An Ongoing Educational Journey That Spans Disciplines and the Globe

Achieving CAP accreditation is more than a credential—it’s a commitment to continuous improvement, backed by expert guidance and a global network, empowering you to deliver exceptional patient care.

FEATURES	CAP	OTHERS
ORGANIZATION	Established in 1946 and accrediting outside the US since 1979; now with 8,400+ accredited labs in 60 countries	Varies when they began; many are limited to their own country
SCOPE	Medical laboratories performing clinical and/or anatomic pathology testing	May cover a variety of facilities, not just medical laboratories
FOCUS	Procedure-focused, spanning preanalytic, analytic, and postanalytic stages with greater depth on technical details and conducted across the entire lab	Process-focused, often looking more broadly across vs. deeply in multiple areas
REQUIREMENTS	Standards are the same worldwide; include required PT/EQA testing, ISO concepts such as root cause analysis, and are discipline-specific with evidence of compliance	Implementation may vary between countries, even if ISO-based
FREQUENCY OF UPDATES	Updated annually with input from 25+ scientific committees made up of lab medicine professionals	Frequency unknown, but many are based on the ISO 15189: 2022 standard (previously 2012 version)
INSPECTORS	Peer volunteer inspectors with discipline-specific expertise who are trained in the CAP’s inspection process	Varies; some use qualified assessors while others have staff or contractors who may lack lab medicine knowledge
INSPECTION METHOD	Inspections cover all sections of the laboratory, with inspectors assigned to checklists based on their knowledge and expertise	Varies between accrediting bodies and from country to country

Supporting Your Successful Outcomes—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

With more than 75 years of exclusive focus on pathology and laboratory medicine, plus annual updates to our programs, the CAP has the knowledge you need to elevate the quality of your medical laboratory.

In addition to medical laboratory accreditation, the CAP offers these accreditation programs:

- Forensic Drug Testing
- Reproductive Laboratory
- Biorepository
- CAP 15189 *(with prerequisite of completing our medical laboratory accreditation program)*



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Ready to learn more?

Scan the QR code to
request a fee estimate
or contact us at
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