The College of American Pathologists Model Criteria for State Licensure of Clinical Laboratory Personnel

1. Clarify that all clinical laboratory personnel work under the supervision, control, responsibility of the laboratory director.

2. Support state licensure for medical technologists and technicians with a defined scope of practice with a minimum education requirement of BA for technologists and AA for technicians and successful completion of national certification exam.

3. Support limited (specialty) licenses for specialized laboratory professionals that perform electron microscopy, histocompatibility, cytogenetics, stem cell processing, flow cytometry, cellular immunology and molecular diagnostics. Provide for either course curriculum completion for these positions or, alternatively, one year of on-the-job training. Require competence certification by the lab director.

4. Define the scope of practice for medical technologists as an individual eligible to perform any clinical laboratory test including those that require the exercise of independent technical judgment subject to the supervision, control, responsibility and direction of the clinical laboratory director. In addition this individual is responsible for, with oversight by the laboratory director, the establishment and implementation of protocols, quality assessment, method development and selection, equipment selection and maintenance, and all activities related to the pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic phases of testing. The medical technologist may also direct, supervise, consult, educate, and perform research functions that includes the establishment and implementation of protocols, quality assessment, method development and selection, equipment selection and maintenance, and all activities related to the pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic phases of testing.

5. Define the scope of practice for medical technicians as an individual eligible who is qualified to perform clinical laboratory tests pursuant to established and approved protocols which are performed under the supervision, control, responsibility and direction of the clinical laboratory director.

6. Continue to oppose state licensure for cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, and pathologists assistants as unnecessary.

7. Include the clarifying statement that nothing contained in the (licensure) act shall be construed as a limitation on the scope of work permitted under CLIA for qualified cytotechnologists.

8. Ensure that only pathologists exercise independent medical judgment in the diagnosis and treatment decisions related to clinical laboratory tests.

9. Incorporate definition of independent technical judgment as the performance or conduct of clinical laboratory tests and assumption of responsibility for determination of the validity of clinical laboratory test results without intervention by or the supervision of another health care provider authorized by law to assume responsibility for the conduct and validity of clinical laboratory tests.
10. Establish a nine member clinical laboratory licensure oversight board that includes at least three pathologists and one non-physician laboratory director. Limit the regulatory authority of the board to modify or expand the personnel or scope of practice requirement defined by the state statute.

11. The CAP Model Criteria are not binding on any State Pathology Society.