



Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey (CLSS) 2014 Glossary

Academic Health Center - An institution that consists of a medical school as well as one or more other schools of health professions in combination with a teaching hospital that is either owned by the parent university or affiliated with it.

Accredit - To give recognition based on quality standards to a program, organization or entity.

Assure - To make certain that a specific laboratory service is provided by an entity other than the designated state public health laboratory. Assurance does not address the quality of a service but only its availability.

Certify - To attest to the knowledge and skills of an individual laboratorian; to attest to the performance level of a laboratory.

Clinical - Referring to a hospital, clinic, or other healthcare service.

Clinical laboratories - Any facility which performs tests on specimens of human origin.

Comprehensive laboratory services - The range of laboratory services that are encompassed in the "Core Functions and Capabilities of State Public Health Laboratories" publication, 2000.

Enterprise LIMS - A LIMS that solves an enterprise-wide problem rather than serve just a single function within the laboratory.

Essential Public Health Services- The ten services identified in *Public Health in America*: monitoring health status; diagnosing and investigating health problems; informing, educating, and empowering people; mobilizing community partnerships; developing policies and plans; enforcing laws and regulations; linking people to needed services; assuring a competent workforce; conducting evaluations; and conducting research.

Health-related laboratories- Those laboratories that perform any services that may have implications for the public's health. Depending on the type of analyses performed and the intended use of the information generated, this designation might include hospital, clinical, physician-office, environmental, agricultural, public safety, veterinary, food, water, pharmaceutical compounding, or academic laboratories.

Laboratory Response Network- Biological- Formed in 1999 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) is the nation's premier system for identifying, testing and characterizing potential agents of biological and chemical terrorism. The LRN maintains an integrated national and international network of laboratories that can respond quickly to acts of chemical or biological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases and other public health threats. The LRN for Bioterrorism Preparedness is organized as a three-tiered pyramid. At the base are thousands of sentinel clinical laboratories, which perform initial screening of potential pathogens. When sentinel clinical laboratories cannot rule-out the presence of a bioterrorism agent, they refer specimens and isolates to the appropriate LRN reference laboratory. More than 160 state, local and federal facilities provide reference testing. At the apex are national laboratories, such as those at the CDC and the Department of Defense. These laboratories test and characterize samples that pose challenges beyond the capabilities of reference laboratories, and provide support for other LRN members during a serious outbreak, public health emergency or terrorist event.



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Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) - An information management system designed specifically for the laboratory. LIMS incorporate software that handles receiving, processing and storing information generated by laboratory processes.

Licensure/licensing - To give authority by state law to operate a laboratory or to practice laboratory services.

Provide - To perform or have the capability to perform a specific laboratory service in the state public health laboratory.

Public Health Laboratory- A state, county, or city facility with the equipment and staff needed to conduct ongoing public health assessments and to respond to emergency public health issues whose mission includes supporting essential public health services.

Reference laboratories - Laboratories that provide specialized testing. Reference laboratories may serve the needs of both clinical and public health laboratories. Most reference laboratories are private entities however some may be run by not-for-profit or public entities.

Research - Investigation, experimentation, or evaluation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of information, or the practical application of such information to the field of public health. Research may be categorized as applied, basic, clinical, systems and services, or translational.

- **Applied**- Solves problems rather than to acquire new knowledge. Such research might be used to improve a process.
- **Basic** - Tests a hypothesis or answer a scientific question. The motivation for such research is to acquire new knowledge.
- **Clinical** - Determines the safety or efficacy of medications, devices, diagnostic products/procedures and regimens. Often carried out for the prevention, treatment or diagnosis of a disease or condition.
- **Systems and Services** - Examines the organization, financing and delivery of public health services in communities, and assesses the impact of these services on public health.
- **Translational** - Translates the findings in basic research and applies them to meaningful health outcomes which broadly affect a population or community.

Sample - A portion or quantity of a material or substance used in testing or performing an analysis. Usually refers to an environmental substance but may also refer to a fluid or material taken from the body.

Specimen - A portion or quantity of a bodily fluid, tissue or other substance used in testing or performing an analysis.

State public health laboratory - The laboratory that has primary responsibility for performing and assuring public health laboratory services in a state. The state public health laboratory may be organizationally located in an entity other than the state health department or agency.

Turn around time (TAT) - The time between the point at which a sample or specimen is collected until the time that the requestor has received the results of the test or analysis. Note: TAT measured from the point of receipt of a sample or specimen within the laboratory until the generation of a final result is referred to as *Internal TAT*.