



COLA

FAST FACTS 1

CONNECTICUT LICENSES CLINICAL LABORATORIES

In January 1997, the State of Connecticut began licensing all clinical laboratories in the state.

In addition to federal CLIA compliance, practice-based and physician office laboratories are required to obtain a state license and undergo a state survey to determine their compliance with state laboratory standards in Connecticut.

The Connecticut state licensure standards are based on the federal CLIA regulations.

What Does State Licensure Cost?

The biennial Connecticut state laboratory license costs \$100 every two years.

How Does this Affect CLIA?

Laboratories in Connecticut are required to comply with federal CLIA requirements as well as Connecticut state licensure standards.

Does this Affect COLA Accreditation?

COLA accreditation is an approved alternative to CLIA compliance for clinical laboratories. Accreditation is still an integral part of a laboratory's quality improvement activities.

Moreover, participation in COLA's Laboratory Accreditation program—with its educational approach—can actually help prepare laboratory facilities for their state survey.

Benefits of COLA Accreditation

Laboratories benefit from our suite of

value-added educational services that includes:

- expert technical assistance
- comprehensive Self-Assessment instrument which enables you to evaluate your facility using the criteria the COLA surveyor uses
- detailed post-survey response that provides valuable information on how to correct issues
- educational Accreditation Manual written in straightforward, user-friendly language

Moreover, COLA provides regular updates on the latest in quality laboratory techniques and regulatory trends through the Insights newsletter and COLA Member Site, both of these educational products are provided free as part of COLA Accreditation.

Quality Educational Products

COLA has a wide array of educational products that can assist your laboratory with providing quality care. Our extensive library of educational tools allows you to continually improve your workplace performance. Whether you need on-site assistance, faxed information, customer service telephone assistance, on-line information, or traditional publications, COLA delivers.

A brief summary of COLA's educational products is available in the table below. COLA participants receive special discounts on all products.

For Further Assistance

If you have any questions about COLA accreditation in Connecticut, please call our Information Resource Center at (800) 981-9883.

COLA Educational Products and Services

Print Publications: A variety of print products are available for immediate download on-line at the COLA Bookstore at www.cola.org and clicking on the shopping cart image, or receive hard copy by mail. Call 1-800-981-9883 to order by phone.

LabUniversity: On-line education courses for physicians, laboratory scientist and laboratory staff. Characterized by its convenience, easy accessibility, and benchmark training in laboratory practices, science, and management at www.labuniversity.com.

POL Symposium: Conference offering over 20 hours of CME and CEU credits designed to educate all personnel involved in physician office laboratory testing. For more information visit www.polsymposium.org.

Information Resource Center: Toll-free telephone technical support line to assist all laboratories (COLA and non-COLA participants) at 800-981-9883.

 WWW.COLA.ORG



For information about COLA services or for technical inquiries, call our Information Resource Center at (800) 981-9883.