



JCAHO RECOGNIZES COLA LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

On April 24, 2007, COLA and the Joint Commission renewed their cooperative agreement which allows laboratories affiliated with the Joint Commission to utilize COLA accreditation to fulfill the Joint Commission accreditation requirements. This means that laboratory directors may continue to choose COLA accreditation to fulfill the Joint Commission accreditation requirements.

Under the renewed agreements, Joint Commission affiliated laboratories are subject to the following terms:

- COLA will perform unannounced surveys for Joint Commission affiliated laboratories with test volumes greater than 25,000
- COLA will perform short notice surveys for Joint Commission affiliated laboratories with test volumes equal or less than 25,000. (Note: Short notice in this agreement is defined as five (5) business days.)
- Laboratories affiliated with the Joint Commission are required to perform a COLA Self Assessment in the interim year of their accreditation cycle.
- COLA will perform all surveys at least once every two years on or before the anniversary of the laboratory's survey date. Forty-five days plus or minus from the last survey date is no longer applicable.
- COLA will implement its equivalent of the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Program.

(Please note: The Joint Commission requires all affiliated facilities to be continuously accredited; therefore, laboratories utilizing the cooperative agreement must be surveyed and awarded accreditation before their survey anniversary date or before they withdraw from the Joint Commission Program.)

COLA and the Joint Commission have maintained an active and effective cooperative agreement over the

years. This agreement is an example of how two national accrediting organizations can collaborate to eliminate duplicative surveys and promote the delivery of quality healthcare.

As part of this recognition, COLA has demonstrated that its standards, survey processes, and accreditation decisions are, at the least, equivalent to the Joint Commission's. The Joint Commission conducts four validation surveys each year to confirm equivalence.

COLA has been recognized for promoting and upholding high standards of quality, ensuring that the Joint Commission can maintain its standards and still provide options for laboratories affiliated with the two organizations.

QUESTIONS?

FOR ASSISTANCE,

CALL OUR CUSTOMER

SERVICE CENTER AT

(800) 981-9883,

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY,

9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.,

EASTERN TIME.

 **WWW.COLA.ORG**



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