

§493.855 Standard; Cytology: gynecologic examinations

(a) The laboratory must ensure that each individual is tested at least once per year and obtains a passing score.

To ensure this annual testing of individuals, an announced or unannounced testing event will be conducted on-site in each laboratory at least once each year. Laboratories will be notified of the time of each announced on-site testing event at least 30 days prior to each event. Additional testing events will be conducted as necessary in each State or region for the purpose of testing individuals who miss the on-site testing event and for retesting individuals as described in paragraph (b) of this section.

Interpretive Guidelines §493.855(a)

The regulations require that all laboratory personnel who examine gynecologic cytology slide preparations must be present in the laboratory to take the proficiency test on the date the laboratory is scheduled for the testing. The precise dates of testing and logistical arrangements are the responsibility of the laboratory and the PT provider. Those individuals not present for the test on the scheduled date will need to have an excused absence, verified by the Laboratory Director. Participants who miss the scheduled on-site test without an excused absence will receive a failing score of “0.” Laboratories must contact the PT program to determine when and where the make-up examination will take place. Examples of “excused” absences include prior scheduled leave, natural disasters, hospitalization, death in the family, etc. Those individuals working at more than one location must identify the laboratory where they will be tested prior to the first testing event. A passing score is 90%.