



# High Complexity Testing Cytotechnologist Qualifications § 493.1483

or

or

Each person examining cytology slide preparations must meet the qualifications of § 493.1449(b) which states that an individual

**§ 493.1449(b)(1)** Is a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state in which the laboratory is located.

and

**§ 493.1449(b)(2)** Is certified in both anatomic and clinical pathology by the American Board of Pathology or the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.

Each person examining cytology slide preparations must meet the qualifications of § 493.1449(e) which states that if the requirements of § 493.1449(b) are not met and the laboratory performs tests in the subspecialty of cytology, the individual functioning as the technical supervisor must

**1449(e)(1)(i)** Be a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state in which the laboratory is located and **(e)(1)(ii)** Be certified in anatomic pathology by the American Board of Pathology or the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.

or

**1449(e)(2)** An individual qualified under § 493.1449(b) or § 493.1449(e) (1) may delegate some of the cytology technical supervisor responsibilities to an individual who is in the final year of full-time training leading to certification specified in § 493.1449(b) or § 493.1449 (e)(1)(ii), provided the technical supervisor qualified under § 493.1449(b) or § 493.1449(e)(1) remains ultimately responsible for ensuring that all of the responsibilities of the cytology technical supervisor are met.

**Note:** § 493.1449(b) states that the laboratory may perform anatomic and clinical laboratory procedures and tests in all specialties and subspecialties of services except histocompatibility and clinical cytogenetics services, provided the individual functioning as the technical supervisor

**(1)** Is a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state in which the laboratory is located;

and

**(2)** Is certified in both anatomic and clinical pathology by the American Board of Pathology or the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.

**(a)** Possess a current license as a cytotechnologist, issued by the state in which the laboratory is located, if such licensing is required

and

**(b)** Meet one of the following requirements:

**(1)** Have graduated from a school of cytotechnology accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

or

**(2)** Be certified in cytotechnology by an HHS-approved certifying agency.

or

**(3)** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an individual is considered qualified as a cytotechnologist under this section if they were qualified and serving as a cytotechnologist in a CLIA-certified laboratory as of December 28, 2024, and have done so continuously since December 28, 2024.

## Resources

1. Code of Federal Regulations. Title 42, Part 493  
[Subpart M- Personnel for Nonwaived Testing](#)
2. CMS Quality Safety & Oversight memoranda, guidance, clarifications, and instructions.  
[Policy & Memos to States and CMS Locations | CMS](#)
3. CMS Survey Procedures and Interpretive Guidelines for Laboratories and Laboratory Services.  
[Interpretive Guidelines for Laboratories | CMS](#)