



Commissioner's Corner February 2024

QUESTION: Our laboratory recently had a couple of unsuccessful PT results – our commissioner told us that “enhanced Proficiency Testing” is required – what exactly does that entail?

ANSWER: Enhanced PT testing requires a number of samples equal to the number in a laboratory’s designated yearly proficiency testing survey.

If the laboratory has been performing successfully in a second approved proficiency survey of the same analyte, those results may be submitted in lieu of enhanced PT (Note - this does not apply to CMS regulated analytes). The results must be from the same 12- month period as the designated PT survey and conform to all other PT requirements.

Enhanced PT may also come from blind parallel testing with another ASHI Accredited laboratory. Both parties must send their results directly and independently to the Commissioner for review without prior knowledge of the other laboratory’s results. Impartiality must be maintained between the two laboratories involved with the blind sample exchange. The laboratories cannot share the same director, and the laboratory required to perform enhanced PT must be blinded and may not serve as the sending laboratory for samples.

PT results obtained since the submission of the laboratory’s most recent accreditation application may count toward the total number required for enhanced PT.