



## REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDER-PERFORMED MICROSCOPY PROCEDURES

In 1993, the Health Care Financing Administration (now called CMS) created a new CLIA certificate option in order to reduce the regulatory burden of CLIA on physician office laboratories. This CLIA certificate is the Certificate for Provider-Performed Microscopy Procedures (PPMP). This certificate allows the provider to perform a limited list of microscopic tests, usually performed during the exam of a patient. The PPMP certificate also allows waived tests to be performed by any individual.

In order to qualify for this certificate:

- The laboratory must only perform one or more of the microscopy procedures shown at right.
- These procedures must be performed by one of the following providers:
  - Physician
  - Dentist
  - Nurse midwife
  - Nurse practitioner
  - Physician assistant

These tests are moderate complexity and are subject to the applicable CLIA standards for:

- Proficiency Testing
- Quality System
- Facility Administration
- Personnel

PPMP and waived laboratories are not subject to the routine federal biennial inspection. Proficiency testing is required for pin worm examination only (the only regulated analyte among these procedures).

These microscopy procedures may be performed by any individual that qualifies as moderate complexity testing personnel. However, the laboratory would not be eligible for the PPMP Certificate in that case, because it is not the provider performing the test. When any individual other than the providers listed performs these procedures, the laboratory must hold a Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Accreditation.

### Provider-Performed Microscopy Procedures

- Wet mounts, including preparations of vaginal, cervical, or skin specimens
- All potassium hydroxide (KOH) preparations
- Fern test
- Post-coital direct, qualitative examinations of vaginal or cervical mucous
- Urinalysis; microscopic only
- Fecal leukocyte examination
- Qualitative semen analysis; presence and/or motility of sperm only
- Nasal smears for eosinophils
- Pinworm examinations