



Gold Standard Accreditation of DSM's Major Laboratories

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Diagnostic Services of Manitoba's (DSM) Health Sciences Centre (HSC) and St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) Laboratories have achieved the distinction of being accredited by the Manitoba Quality Assurance Program (MANQAP) and the gold standard Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) of the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

"Labs play a critical role in helping to diagnose patients' conditions and that's why it's so important to ensure our labs are meeting high standards and keeping pace with new tests and changing technology," said Health Minister Theresa Oswald. "The full gold standard accreditation by the College of American Pathologists of Manitoba's major pathology labs for the first time ever provides an additional assurance to Manitobans that the standard of excellence is being met for lab safety, timeliness and accuracy."

Contracted by Manitoba Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba is responsible for accreditation of laboratory and diagnostic imaging facilities in Manitoba under MANQAP. Due to the sophisticated and complex processes and large scope of services provided at DSM's largest labs, at HSC and SBH, MANQAP has contracted CAP to conduct the accreditation surveys at these sites. On the basis of the CAP survey report and recommendations, MANQAP has granted full accreditation to DSM's HSC and SBH laboratories. CAP accredits labs across the world, including leading facilities such as the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic, as well as some major facilities in other provinces.

"DSM's processes have been measured to the highest standards with the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program," said DSM Chief Medical Officer Dr. Amin Kabani. "CAP Accreditation recognizes DSM as a premiere provider of quality diagnostic services and also acknowledges the dedication and expertise of our staff."

CAP's stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, going well beyond regulatory compliance. DSM's CAP Accreditation designation is based on the results of on-site inspections, conducted in February of this year, which examined laboratory records, quality control, staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety programs and records as well as the overall management of the laboratory. CAP Accreditation is a symbol of DSM's compliance with national and international standards and best practice as well as a strong commitment to quality.

The quality of DSM's operations made an impression with the CAP inspection team who noted that both the HSC and SBH sites were in a state of preparedness similar to labs receiving follow-up inspections, and not a first visit. This compliment was further reinforced by the strong compliance rates of above 98% resulting from each inspection.

"We would like to recognize staff for embracing this challenge and for their work to ensure safe patient care by meeting and exceeding regulatory standards. This accomplishment is the result of extraordinary team work," Kabani said, also acknowledging DSM's health care partners for their support as DSM undertook this endeavour.

As exclusive members of CAP's international group of accredited laboratories, DSM's HSC and SBH sited labs are now part of an ongoing CAP accreditation cycle which will ensure that diagnostic services continue to be held to evolving quality and safety standards. As part of DSM's relationship with CAP, DSM experts will in turn participate in CAP accreditation inspections of other facilities.

DSM is the not-for-profit corporation, established in 2002, responsible for all of Manitoba's public laboratory services, including those at the HSC and SBH reference laboratories, and for rural diagnostic imaging services. Approximately 14.5 million tests are processed in DSM labs annually.

The College of American Pathologists is a medical society that serves more than 17,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. It is the world's largest association composed exclusively of Board-certified pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance. The College is an advocate for high-quality and cost-effective patient care. For more information on the CAP and its Laboratory Accreditation Program, please visit www.cap.org.

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