

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL
CAP LABORATORY PATIENT SAFETY GOALS**

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PURPOSE: The laboratory plays a crucial role in the delivery of healthcare. The College of American Pathology (CAP) has developed numerous quality standards and guidelines to assure high quality practice. In addition, the College has established patient safety goals founded on medical error reduction and continuous patient safety improvement.

POLICY: The HRMC Laboratory will adhere to the CAP Laboratory Patient Safety Goals. It will focus on the pre-and post analytic phases of laboratory testing with the objective of improving patient test management processes, including patient identification, test ordering, and critical results reporting and interpretation. The goals also reinforce the laboratory's role in patient safety with the objective of improving identification, communication and correction of medical errors. The CAP Laboratory Safety Goals are:

- Improve patient and sample identification at specimen collection, analysis and resulting
- Improve verification and communication of life-threatening or life-altering information regarding malignancies, HIV (and other serious infectious diseases), cytogenetic abnormalities, and critical values
- Improve identification, communication and correction of errors in a timely manner
- Improve the coordination of the laboratory's patient safety role within the healthcare organization.