

# CLIAAC Meeting Public Comment Registration Form

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Issue Cytology Workload

## **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

**"The Entry Level Workload for Recent Cytotechnology Program Graduates Falls Far below FDA/CMS Automated Pap test Screening Device Guidelines and May put Patients at Risk"**

A recently completed nationwide study for "Determining Entry Level Workload Guidelines for Automated Pap test Screening Devices for Cytotechnology Program Graduates," demonstrated a significant and alarming disconnect between the current FDA/CMS daily workload limits and the entry level workload for recent program graduates. Cytology laboratory managers, supervisors and technical coordinators should be keenly aware of this disconnect and establish appropriate entry level workloads for recent graduates in their laboratories.

The study's preliminary results indicated that the average workload for recent graduates was **(96)** slides per (8) hour work day compared to **(167)** per FDA/CMS guidelines. The results indicate that recent program graduates are capable doing only **(58%)** of the FDA/CMS daily workload upon graduation. Based upon these findings, it is highly recommended that Cytology laboratories be keenly aware of this differential and adjust daily workloads for new graduate hires accordingly.

The (96) slide workload was calculated using a workload composition formula of (75%) of the daily workload consisting of (FOV) field of view only slides with the remaining (25%) requiring field of view plus full manual review (FOV+FMR). Using the current FDA/CMS guidelines and the (75/25) formula the daily workload slide differential was **(71)** slides.

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The study included representation from (6/24 = 25%) of the currently active Cytotechnology Programs in the USA. Twenty one students participated (21/108, representing 19.44% of all enrolled Cytotechnology students nationwide). The Cytotechnology students evaluated (485) Pap tests using the ThinPrep imaging system (Hologic Inc., Marlborough, Mass).

The project director was William N. Crabtree, Ph.D., SCT(ASCP), Associate Professor and Director of the Cytotechnology Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine and was supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).