

TENNESSEE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD

Position Statement Regarding the Licensing of Technologists Performing FISH (Flourescence in Situ Hybridization)

This is a **high complexity** test and will be performed in CLIA approved laboratories. The following preparatory/pre-analytic steps of the FISH procedure should not require a licensed technologist to perform. However, the preparatory/pre-analytic work must be performed under the supervision of a licensed technologist.

1. Specimen preparation: this involves a direct harvest of specimen in order to isolate white blood cells and apply to a slide or paraffin imbedded tissue.
2. Pretreatment of specimen: this involves washing the specimen (on slide) in a specific series of solutions.
3. Preparation of FISH probes: involves mixing minute amounts of sensitive reagents.
4. Hybridization: simple process of using co-denaturation involving applying probe, coverslip, and placing on a programmable instrument.
5. Post treatment: involves washing slides in a series of solutions, applying counterstain and cloverslip.

The following analytic steps DO require a licensed and trained technologist to perform:

1. Analysis: involves analyzing probed cells, classifying normal and abnormal targets. This requires a licensed technologist, preferably a CG(ASCP)^{cm} – Cytogenetics (American Society for Clinical Pathology) certificate maintenance – and/or a licensed MD or PhD or DO, preferably American College of Medical Genetics Boarded.
2. Interpretation: involves determining whether a specimen is normal or abnormal. This requires a licensed MD or PhD or DO, preferably American College of Medical Genetics Boarded.

This Policy Statement was adopted by the
Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board on the 14th of October, 2010.