

# AABB: Its an Assessment not an Inquisiton

Anne Chenoweth, MBA, MT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, CQA(ASQ)

**Senior Director** 

**Accreditation and Quality** 

**AABB** 

#### WHY AABB?





2

## Purpose of Assessment

- To determine compliance with established Standards
- Peer review
- Education





# Expectation

You are always prepared for an assessment





### Why Unannounced?

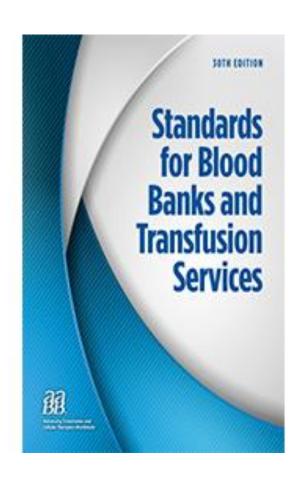


- To increase public trust in assessment process
- GAO report expressed concerns about integrity of inspections where facility receives prior notification of date
- CMS has placed restrictions on accrediting organizations regarding scheduling of assessments/inspections



#### **AABB Standards**

- Revised every two years
- 4-month implementation period
- Begin assessing on effective date of applicable Standards





# How Do I Get Ready?







### Tools To Prepare For Assessments

- Standards for activities to be assessed
- AIM Accreditation Information Manual
- Assessment Tools
- www.aabb.org











NUSSCII COLLCII

m

Search...



#### Standards Portal

Standards >



Standards for Cellular Therapy Services, 7th edition

#### **Standards Portal**

This portal is home to AABB's sets of Standards which form the basis for our Accreditation Program. This tool allows the user to customize the Standards to their needs by using "My Profile" to reflect their accreditation activities.



**FAQs** 

FAQs About AABB Standards

FAQs About the Online Standards Portal



Variance Management

Request a Variance

Granted Variances



Resources

<u>Accredited Facilities</u>

Standards Library

Guidance

Community



### Standards Portal Cont...

- Benefits of the Standards Portal include
  - Customizable profiles based on your accredited activities.
  - Guidance to most standards (including significant changes to this edition).
  - Seamless integration of interim standards when they become effective
  - Ability to print the entire set of Standards on demand.
  - Discounted pricing structure for facilities or individuals who wish to purchase multiple licenses



### **Assessment Tool**

Accreditation Requirement	Sample Assessment Questions	Evidence of Compliance
▲ 1.3 Policies, Processes, and Procedures  Quality and operational policies, processes, and procedures shall be developed and implemented to ensure that the requirements of these BB/TS Standards are satisfied All such policies, processes, and procedures shall be in writing or captured electronically and shall be followed. Standard 5.1.1 applies	What is the process to ensure that the requirements of AABB Standards and of regulatory agencies are incorporated into your documents and practices?	



# Getting Ready: Helpful Hints

- Have a plan!
  - Activities
  - Timeline
- Involve your staff
  - To develop policies, processes, and procedures
  - To find areas of nonconformance





#### Who Are These Assessors?

#### Staff assessors

- Lead assessments for blood centers, cellular therapy labs, cord blood banks, perioperative services, molecular testing and relationship testing labs
- Conduct and manage audits
- Expertise in quality systems
- Trained in CMS regulations

#### Volunteer assessors

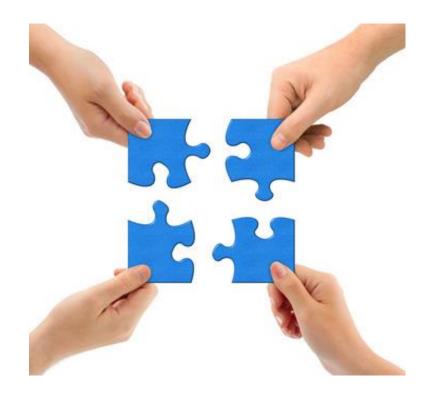
- Knowledge of and experience in activity to be assessed
- Trained as assessors





# Why AABB

Quality system assessment vs checklist

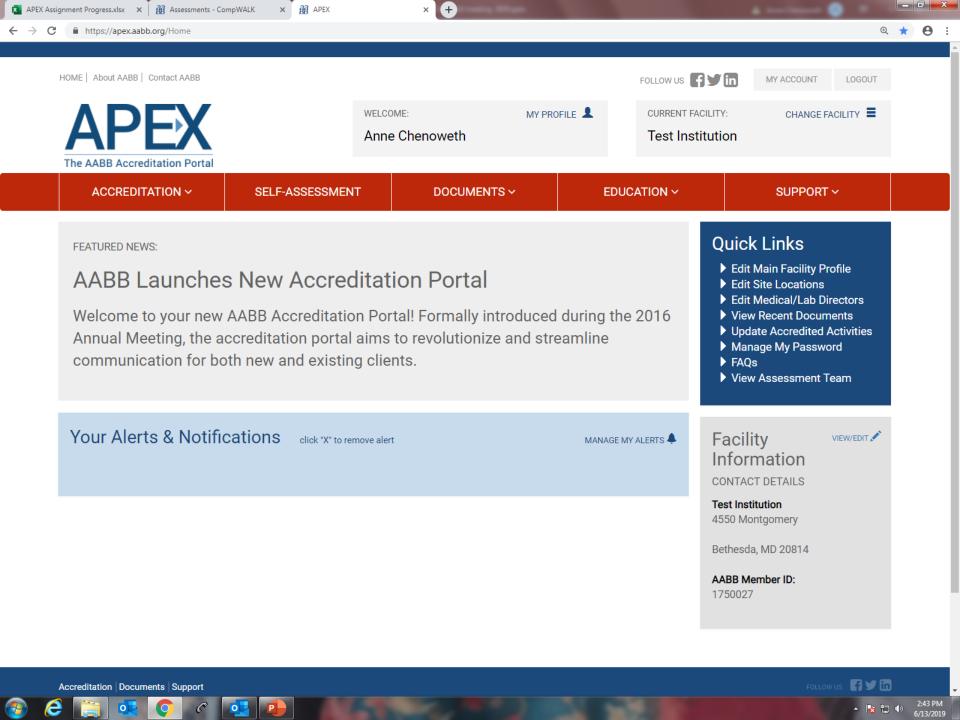


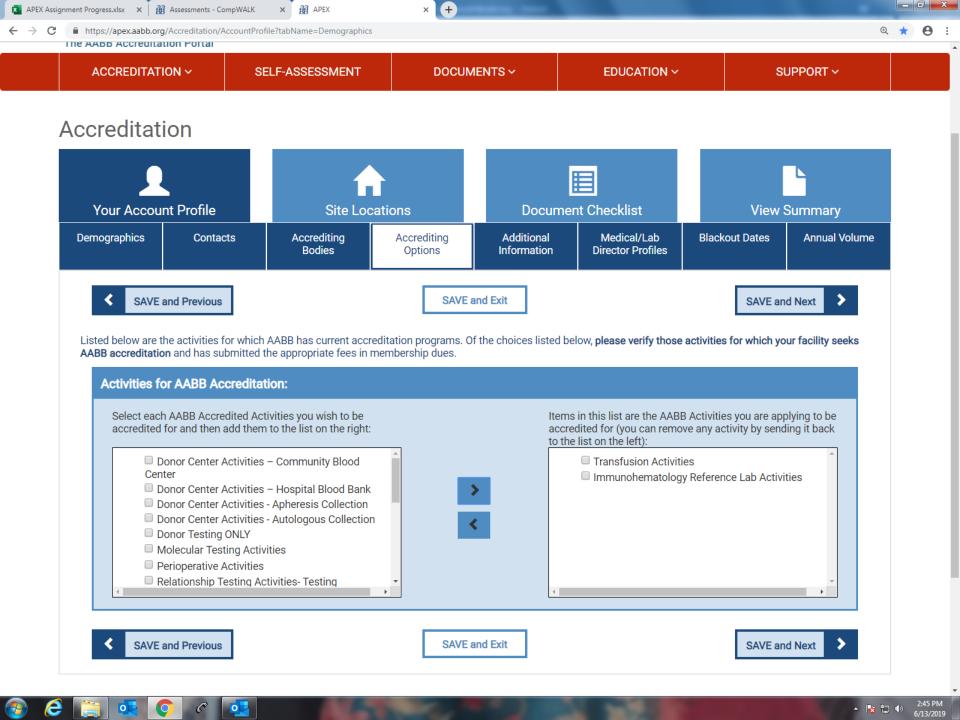


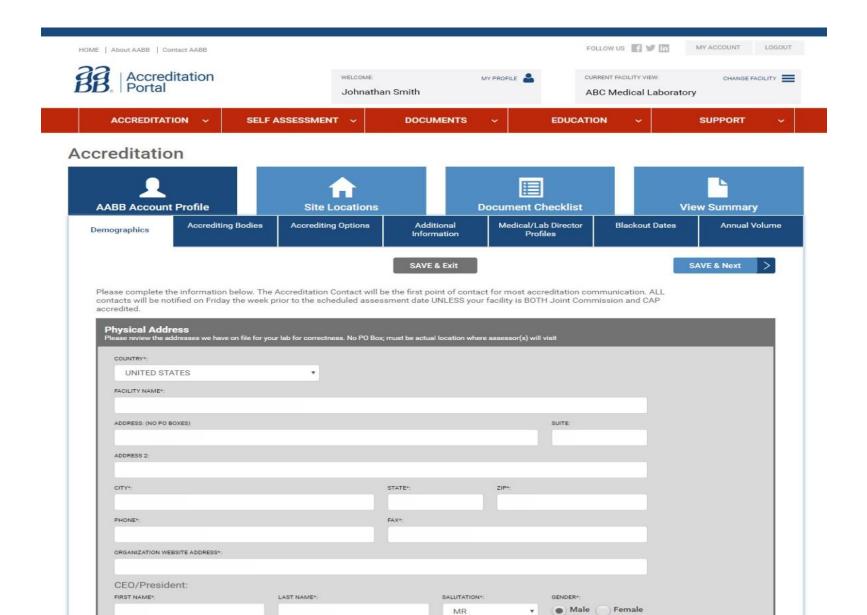
# Risk Mitigation







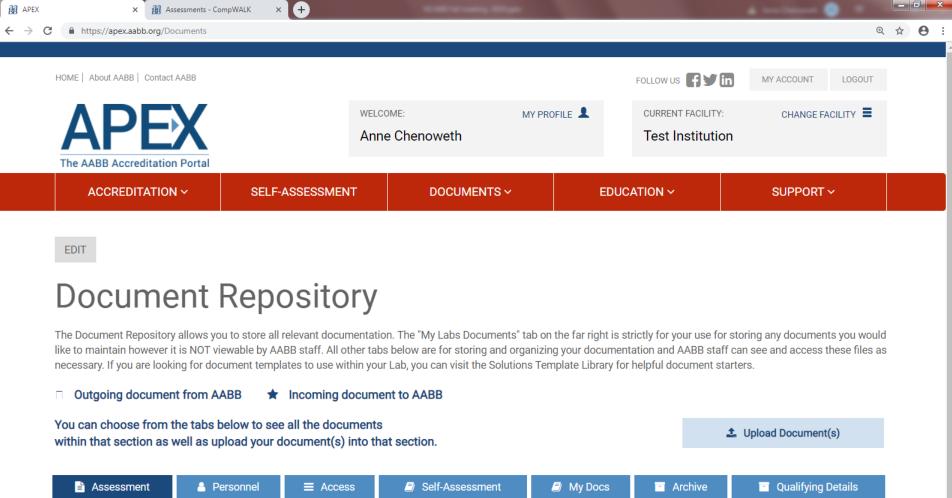




BB

19

Check here if Facility billing address differs from physical address.





Accreditation | Documents | Support

HOME | About AABB | Contact AABB

AABB

4550 Montgomery Avenue Suite 700 | Bethesda, MD 20814-3304
Phone: +1.301.907.6977 | Fax: +1.301.907.6895



FOLLOW US F 1 in



# 1.0 Organization

1.1 ...shall have a defined executive management

- 1.3 quality and operational policies, prcesses and procedures shall be developed and implemented to ensure requirements...are met.
- Evidence of participation in quality reviews are missing

- Processes are not written
- SOPs are not followed as written



#### 2.0 Resources

2.1.3 Competence

Evaluation of competence shall be performed... at defined intervals

- Missing annual competence
- Competence assessment not performed twice within the first year of employment
- Competency assessments do not include all CLIA requirements



## Minimal regulatory requirements

- Direct observations of routine patient test performance, including patient preparation, specimen handling, processing and testing
- Monitoring the recording and reporting of test results
- Review of intermediate test results or worksheets, quality control records, proficiency test results and preventive maintenance records
- Direct observations of performance of instrument maintenance and function checks
- Assessment of test performance through testing previously analyzed specimens, internal blind testing samples or external PT samples
- Assessment of problem solving skills

Competency assessment, including the 6 elements, must be performed for testing personnel for each test that the individual is approved by the lab director to perform.



### 3.0 Equipment

- 3.5 ...process for scheduled monitoring and maintenance of equipment
- 3.7 The alarm shall be set to activate under conditions that will allow action to be taken before...reach unacceptable conditions.

- Manufacturer's instructions are not followed
- No evidence of corrective action if equipment is not functioning correctly
- Alarms set outside acceptable limits





# Proficiency Testing (PT)

 Required for the test system used as the primary method for patient / donor testing





### Proficiency Testing: Analytes Requiring PT

- Laboratory must enroll in a CMS approved PT program
- PT testing must be rotated among staff
- PT samples must be treated the same as patient samples

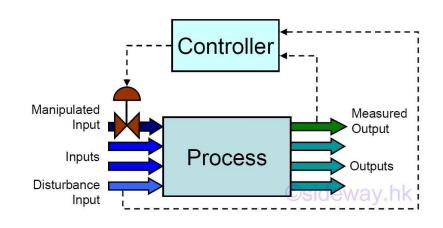




#### 5.0 Process Control

- 5.0 Process control...shall have policies, and validated procedures that ensure the quality...
- 5.1.1 ...shall have a process to develop new processes and procedures of change existing ones...

- No documentation of validation process
- Incomplete documentation of changes made to existing procedures
- Change control process not followed





### **Continual Readiness**





29

### Staying Ready for Assessments

- Implementation and monitoring of CAPlan
- Introduction of New Standards
  - Comment period
  - Make your thoughts known!
- 4 month implementation period
  - Develop a plan
  - Implement
- Internal assessments
- Process improvement





#### Available tools

- www.aabb.org
  - AABB assessment tools
  - Commendable Practices Library
  - Facility Guide Through the Assessment Process
  - AABB HUB
  - Accreditation and Quality Department
    - accreditation@aabb.org
    - 301-215-6492



#### Self Assessment

The Self Assessment uses the exact same criteria that AABB Assessors use when onsite in your lab. These Standards are targeted to the specific activities you perform in the lab and are segmented by category for easy answering, printing and sharing among your staff.

#### **Tips For Success**

Be honest in your answers, indicating what your laboratory is currently doing, not what you have recently learned. AABB has found the laboratories that complete the Self-Assessment and put a lot of effort into the process have done better, as a whole, on their onsite assessments. Involve your staff in the Self-Assessment process. You can create challenges and team-based activities to identify and address any gaps in your processes. Try using this Self-Assessment module as a part of new employee orientation. This can be a great introduction to your lab's quality management program.

#### Relax

Remember, for Current Members using this as an educational tool, that the voluntary Self-Assessment results do not factor into AABB accreditation decisions. For pending members and those adding new activities/locations, those results will be reviewed and evaluated by AABB staff.

### Would you like to print out a blank version of all or part of your Self-Assessment?

If you would rather have a hard copy of a blank Self-Assessment for your lab for offline purposes, you can go here and choose what part(s) of your Self-Assessment you need printed out.

VIEW BLANK SELF-ASSESSMENT

#### Confirm

Before beginning, please confirm the current activities we have on file for your lab.

Your Current Activities Are:

If you believe this is an error, you can click here to edit your activities. We're just a toll free call away if you need assistance. Reach out to the AABB support team at (800)555-1234.

#### **Self Assessment Options**

#### Required - Self Assessments

New Pending Members or Current Members Requesting New Activity/Location

Upon requesting Accreditation for and Activity(s) and/or adding a new location to an already existing account, you are required to complete a Self-Assessment and submit it to AABB for review.



















**ABC Medical Laboratory** 

Facility Profile Summary Report



#### In Summary...

- Empower Facilities to have control over their AABB Accreditation information, eliminate completing and submitting forms from scratch every two years – significantly reduce the amount of time and paper
- Automate manual, often repetitive tasks so you can focus on the things that truly need more attention
- Centralize and Document communication between Facilities and AABB, eliminating potential disjointed back and forth (email chains, waiting on a fax, calling AABB)
- Communications become proactive rather than reactive, alerts and notifications help to guide you efficiently through the process







# Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide

Achenoweth@aabb.org
Accreditation@aabb.org

301-215-6492





