

Status of Potential New TNI Accreditation Bodies

Minnesota Department
of Health

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Why adopt a national standard?

- National standards provide consistency for agency partners by streamlining processes and improving communications.
- National standards help control agency costs.
- National standards assure agency accountability through external reviews.

Challenges

- Helping labs understand minimal differences between the current rules and the NELAC standard
- Assuring state program partners that accreditation from other states is substantially equivalent to Minnesota
- Ensuring that the system is in place to effectively and efficiently manage the program with staffing and budget shortfalls

Timeline

- October 2006: Adopted into regulation
- September 2008: Adopted administrative procedures; completed application forms
- January-March 2009: Advisory meetings
- July 2009: Finalize procedures/revise database

Potential changes that may inhibit progress

- Significant changes to the standard, including the name
- Generalizing the language of the standard such that program requirements increase to cover the regulatory needs
- Adding a significant direct cost to accreditation bodies for obtaining recognition