



## Moderate and High Complexity Testing and Assessment of Competencies – Blood Gas Analysis

	Testing	
	Moderate Complexity	High Complexity
<b>Testing Personnel</b> §493.1423 (M) §493.1489 (HC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate Degree or higher in a chemical, physical, biological or clinical laboratory science, or medical technology<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor Degree in Respiratory Therapy<sup>2</sup> <b>OR</b></li> <li>Associate Degree related to pulmonary function</li> </ul>
	Assessing Competencies	
<b>Technical Supervisor</b> §493.1449		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor Degree in a chemical, biological or physical science or medical technology <b>plus</b> 4 years of training and/or experience in blood gases.</li> <li>Technical supervisor can delegate responsibilities in writing to the general supervisor.</li> </ul>
<b>General Supervisor</b> §493.1461		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must qualify as lab director (usually physician or PhD) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Qualify as the technical supervisor (see above) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Associate Degree in a lab science or medical laboratory <b>plus</b> 2 years training and/or experience in blood gases <b>OR</b></li> <li>Bachelor Degree in Respiratory Therapy <b>plus</b> 1 year lab training and/or experience in blood gases <b>OR</b></li> <li>Associate Degree related to pulmonary function <b>plus</b> 2 years lab training and/or experience in blood gases</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Consultant</b> §493.1411	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor Degree in a chemical, biological or physical science or medical technology <b>plus</b> 2 years training and/or experience in blood gases.</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> The Joint Commission accepts degrees in respiratory therapy as a “biological science”. However, due to variances in individual college programs, the surveyor may ask for documents pertaining to diplomas, certificates, degrees, continuing education, and training and experience.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the many variations in degree titles and course work, the JC recommends that if your degree is in something other than Respiratory Therapy, you may contact the CLIA office in the state where your hospital is located to determine if your course work meets the CLIA qualifications. (See link below)

**CMS has a wealth of information on its website, including contact information for CLIA state and regional offices, the interpretive guidelines, regulations, and brochures (including one on assessing personnel competencies). It can be accessed at:**

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/index.html>