Parentage/Identity Testing

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Standard	***Guidance***
Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 1 (PIT S1): Specimen Testing Testing of all specimens in a paternity/identity case should be performed in the same laboratory and using the same methods. If extenuating circumstances require outsourcing of a portion of the test to another facility, the reporting laboratory must perform a review of all test results prior to reporting and note any other testing facilities in the report.	
Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 2 (PIT S2): Collector Agreement The laboratory must have a written agreement with the collector when the specimen collector is not an employee of the paternity testing laboratory. The agreement must define the testing laboratory's procedures and requirements for chain of custody.	It is the responsibility of the laboratory to maintain chain of custody, and such responsibility may not be relegated. The director must be able to certify that the test result was prepared in a manner intended to ensure acceptance into evidence in a court. Therefore, all paternity testing performed under a New York State permit must meet the standards for court admissibility, regardless of whether the test order source is the court, with or without under a Child Protective Services contract; a physician in private practice; or any other individual or entity authorized by law. Third-party cases (i.e., "brokers") may, in the eyes of the court, be uncertifiable because the laboratory cannot reasonably be expected to maintain complete control of chain of custody when using brokers as independent agents.

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Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 3 (PIT S3): Identity Verification and Records The laboratory must have procedures to verify the identity of individuals who present themselves for testing. Identity information must be documented as part of the record and retained according to Document and Specimen Retention Standards of Practice. Identity verification and records must include: a) photographs, fingerprints or similar evidence of identity; b) name, relationship, and race; c) the specimen collection location and date; d) the date of birth of the child; e) the signature of the person undergoing testing or the guardian affirming the identifying information; and f) the name of the phlebotomist or specimen collector.	
Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 4 (PIT S4): Chain of Custody The laboratory must document the chain of custody for each specimen. Chain of custody must be maintained in the record for as long as the report is retained, according to Document and Specimen Retention Standard of Practice 9.	

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Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 5 (PIT S5): Relevant Patient History The laboratory must record for each individual undergoing testing, as applicable: a) the transfusion history for the preceding three months; and b) any history of any bone marrow transplant.	
Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 6 (PIT S6): Test Procedure Content In addition to the requirements in Test Procedure Content Standard of Practice 1, the laboratory must have a paternity/identity standard operating procedure that includes: a) algorithms used for the calculation and computation of the paternity index, the probability of paternity and the determination of exclusion, including documentation of software program logic; b) frequency tables for each marker and method, including the source of the frequency data; and c) protocols for the documentation and maintenance of the chain-of-custody.	

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Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 7 (PIT S7): Specimen Rejection Criteria In addition to the requirements in Specimen Processing Standard of Practice 4, the laboratory must reject specimen(s) if the external chain of custody does not meet the laboratory's criteria.	
Parentage/Identity Testing Standard of Practice 8 (PIT S8): Report Content In addition to the requirements in Reporting Standard of Practice 2, the report must contain the following information: a) the date(s) of specimen collection; b) the name of each individual tested and the relationship to the child; c) the racial origin(s) assigned by the laboratory to the mother and alleged father for the purpose of calculation; d) the phenotypes established for each individual in each genetic marker system examined; e) a statement as to whether or not the alleged father can be excluded; f) if an opinion of nonpaternity is rendered, the basis for the opinion must be provided; g) if there is a failure to exclude, the report must include: i. the paternity index for each genetic marker system reported;	

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ii. the combined paternity index; and, iii. the probability of paternity, including the prior probability used to calculate the probability of paternity; and h) an explanation of the nature of the problem, if the results are inconclusive.	