

## **Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Steele Memorial Medical Center Laboratory receives accreditation from COLA.**

COLA is an international healthcare accreditation body. It is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1988, and is sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic association, the American Society of Internal Medicine, and the College of American Pathologists.

The accreditation process is a multi step educational process promoting excellence in the operation of clinical laboratories.

COLA's standards and accreditation criteria have been developed and tested by physicians in family practice, internal medicine, and pathology. The COLA board of directors continually evaluates these standards for their relevance to improving the quality of laboratory testing. Through COLA accreditation SMMC's laboratory is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services as meeting the regulatory requirements of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)

Steele Memorial's Lab feels that it should exceed expectations and therefore pursued accreditation from COLA. This has taken well over a year, but with continued support from the administration of Steele Memorial Medical Center, the Pathologists, and the hard work of the laboratory staff, accreditation was achieved.