Quality Division Use Only

Quality Tracking #: 2018-070 Follow Up  
Section: Biology/DNA  
Follow up Date: 10/10/19

Follow up Description:
As part of the Actions Taken in 2018-070, the Forensic Biology section committed that items must be documented in the order in which they are processed in casework and in proficiency tests since documenting examination notes in this way provides transparency regarding the order in which the items are processed.

Has the solution been effective? No

Please explain below:
Upon review of recent Forensic Biology training binders, it was discovered that morgue kits are documented in a manner that does not reflect the order in which the contents are examined. It is Forensic Biology section practice to sub-itemize the bloodstain card that is contained in the morgue kit as the first sub-item regardless of the actual order of examination. For example, if a morgue kit contains both a known bloodstain card and fingernail scrapings, the known bloodstain card will be listed as the first sub-item even if the fingernail scrapings are actually examined first. This practice has been determined to be misaligned with the stated intentions of 2018-070 and was therefore revised. Moving forward, morgue kit items will be documented in the order they are examined. Therefore, if a morgue kit contains a bloodstain card, the bloodstain card will always be the last item inventoried since evidence items are handled before the reference sample. This change was communicated to applicable staff at a meeting held on November 6, 2019.

Additional follow up needed? Yes  
Timeframe: January 2020

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Date: 11/15/19

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Date: 11/26/19

Division Director: Amy Castillo  
Date: 12/02/19

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Date: 12/04/19

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