MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST



What do I do?

I am a key member of the medical community that performs the large majority of the laboratory tests on samples collected. I interact with health care providers to recommend appropriate testing and convey critical values that may impact patient care. I may be involved in teaching, new test development and quality assurance.

My typical day includes:

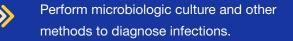


Conduct chemical analysis of body fluids, including blood, urine, or spinal fluid, to determine presence of normal or abnormal components.

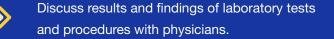


Analyze laboratory findings to check the accuracy of the results.

Assess blood samples to determine the number and type of cells; or blood group and compatibility for transfusions.



Record data from medical tests and enter results into a patient's medical record.



Operate, calibrate, or maintain equipment used in quantitative or qualitative analysis, such as spectrophotometers, calorimeters, flame photometers, or computer-controlled analyzers.

Operate laboratory equipment, such as microscopes and automated cell counters.

Necessary Skill Sets



ATTENTION TO DETAIL Perform routine laboratory procedures and complex analyses that require a high level of cognitive understanding with skill and efficiency, producing accurate and precise results within a specified



ETHICAL BEHAVIOR Exhibit attitudes of honesty and integri

period of time.

honesty and integrity in the performance of all laboratory procedures, with an understanding of the ultimate consequences gained from a knowledge of medical ethics.

COMMUNICATION

Describe and relate the theoretical and practical aspects of each test performed in the laboratory. Relate normal, abnormal and critical values with their significance by demonstrating correct follow-up actions.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Ability to troubleshoot instrumentation and assess abnormal results.

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: \$86,900 (Median: \$83,200)

Certification

Earn certification as a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC).

Education Requirements

Minimum bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Science and MLS certification

* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location and years of service and other factors.

