

Placement Opportunities for Learners at TBRHSC

Medical Laboratory Assistant



Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) are health care professionals who play a critical role in the health care system performing pre-analytical duties as related to laboratory testing, including blood collection, sample preparation and equipment maintenance. Diagnosis and treatment decisions are based on laboratory test results; whereby, the role of the MLA is paramount to ensuring that the bar kept high for quality and safety, i.e., proper patient ID, accurate adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, etc. Nearly half a million lab tests are performed in Ontario each day.

STAFF/FACULTY

There are close to 175 staff members working in Laboratory Services at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC). This includes Pathologists, **Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs)**, **Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs – Technician Level II-Phlebotomist, Technician Level III and Technician Level IV (Autopsy))**, Pathology Assistants (PAs), clerical personnel and students. Approximately 70 of these staff members are MLAs.

Laboratory Services is licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Health and accredited by the Institute of Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH) to perform general and specialized tests. Over 2.7 million tests are performed annually at TBRHSC.

LEARNER PLACEMENTS

The MLA Student Placements are four weeks in length, inclusive of all of the following disciplines:

- Specimen Procurement (Phlebotomy & Central Receiving) & Dispatch
- Biochemistry & Point of Care Testing (POCT)
- Haematology & Flow Cytometry
- Transfusion Medicine
- Microbiology
- Pathology
- ECG*

*outside of the scope of Medical Laboratory Sciences; however, Laboratory Services acts as the liaison for arranging formal training in TBRHSC's Cardiorespiratory Therapy department, who reviews and signs-off competency as part of the MLA placement (if successful)

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACEMENT

Students must be enrolled in a postsecondary Medical Laboratory Assistant Program (1-year college program). Placements requests must be formally requested via the college.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Quality & Safety Compliance Coordinator, Academic and Placement Liaison and Professional Practice Lead

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

Phone: 807-684-6583/or Fax: 807-684-7878

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AFFILIATED COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES

Confederation College

Affiliation agreements are required between academic institutions and TBRHSC before placements will be approved. If you are interested in a placement and attend an institution not listed above, please have your program coordinator contact Karen Anderson in Academic Affairs at least eight weeks in advance at 807-684-6416 or by email to anderska@tbh.net.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- Medical Laboratory Professionals Association of Ontario: <https://www.mlpa.org/>
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science: <https://csmls.org/>