

Tried and Tested Coverage for Medical Lab Technicians

June 29, 2021

Medical laboratory technologists are a vital part of Canada's healthcare system. Today there are about 20,500 medical laboratory technologists working in hospitals, public and private laboratories, university research facilities, pharmaceutical laboratories, veterinary research clinics, community health clinics and biotechnology companies across the country.

Clinical Laboratory Test is one of the fastest growing industries in Canada. Clinical laboratory testing has emerged as the most growing segment of healthcare over the past few years. Market growth is fueled by increasing cases of chronic disease and new companies providing laboratory services entering Canadian market. (1)

Savvy brokers are needed to ensure these medical professionals are adequately covered amidst the changes and emerging demands of their industry.

What Do Medical Lab Technicians Do?

Medical lab technicians conduct medical laboratory tests, experiments, and analyses to assist in the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. They are employed in many settings including:

- Medical laboratories in hospitals
- Blood banks
- Community and private clinics
- Research facilities
- Post-secondary educational institutions

Lab technicians work with high-end equipment to collect samples, operate and maintain medical equipment, and conduct chemical analyses of blood, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, and other body fluids.

A medical lab tech may also perform some or all of the following duties:

- Study blood cells and other tissues to determine their relation to various physiological and pathological conditions
- Prepare tissue sections for microscopic examinations using techniques to demonstrate special cellular tissue elements or other characteristics
- Perform and interpret blood group, type and compatibility tests for transfusion purposes
- Establish procedures for the analysis of specimens and for medical laboratory experiments
- Conduct quality control assessment of testing techniques
- May supervise and train medical lab technical staff, students and helpers
- May assist pathologists during autopsies

Medical laboratory technicians may specialize in a range of areas like clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology, hematology, histotechnology, immunoematology, clinical immunology technology, cytotechnology, and cytogenetics technology

What's at Risk for Medical Lab Technicians

As with any other medical profession, laboratory technicians are subject to some liability exposures.

For example, results from common diagnostic tests constitute a large portion of medical decisions made by healthcare providers, such as blood tests, urine tests, tissue biopsies, x-rays, and CAT scans. When a lab's policies create a system where preventable errors become more likely or a medical lab tech makes a mistake, there is an increased risk that a patient could become seriously ill, or even die. So, laboratory technicians are at risk of being sued for malpractice if their work results in a physician making the wrong diagnosis or delivering a treatment that's harmful to a patient.

This extends to liability for birth defects that were missed or misdiagnosed by prenatal genetic testing, which is sometimes referred to as "wrongful birth."

Why Employer's Insurance is Not Enough

Even if they don't intend to harm the patient, and have never even seen the patient, lab technician could be sued as part of the laboratory, or as an individual. The laboratory partially covers the employees' and practitioners' actions to some degree, but it may not be enough. Employer's insurance is first and foremost to protect the company. Meanwhile,

laboratory and pathologist liability insurance does not prevent or prohibit injury victims from suing; it simply offers lab technicians coverage for costs related to litigation.

Lab techs should have their own policy that prioritizes their interests.

The MedThree Advantage

With specialized experience in the healthcare industry, MedThree Insurance Group can help by providing tailored policies for the healthcare and life sciences industries. Our healthcare practitioners' coverage options make it easy for brokers to find the right policy for their healthcare clients. Visit us at <https://medthreeinsurance.com/> to learn more about our healthcare insurance products.

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Source:

1. <https://www.marketresearchfuture.com/statistical-reports/canada-clinical-laboratory-test-market-3105>