

Who is CAMLT?

The California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology is a voluntary, not-for-profit professional organization representing dedicated laboratory professionals, such as the Clinical Laboratory Scientist, the Medical Laboratory Technician and the Certified Phlebotomy Technician, throughout the State of California.

CAMLT works to maintain and improve high quality in laboratory testing by fostering education and working to ensure that legislators understand the impact of new bills in maintaining high quality laboratory results.

California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology

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The California Association for
Medical Laboratory
Technology (CAMLT)
enhances clinical laboratory
professions through public
policy advocacy, education,
and member services.

What is a Laboratory Test?



Laboratory tests take human biological samples such as whole blood, urine, spinal fluid, and other body fluids and perform various analytical processes to discover specific chemical or cellular attributes as requested by physicians. Laboratory tests are used by physicians, and other healthcare practitioners, to direct patient care. Over 80% of clinical and diagnostic decisions are based on the results of laboratory testing.

Laboratory Tests are classified as waived, moderate, or high complexity based on the necessary skill and educational level of the testing personnel needed to perform a particular test.

Who Works in a Clinical Laboratory?

Pathologists: Physicians who specialize in Clinical/Anatomic Pathology including tissue analysis and cytological testing such as the interpretation of PAP smears and the identification of malignant cells. They are responsible for the overall operation and administration of clinical laboratories.

Clinical Lab Bioanalysts (CLB) have, at the minimum, a master's degree and meet the education and training requirements of the clinical laboratory scientist (CLS). Their scope of practice includes all the activities of the CLS. In addition, the CLB may direct waived, moderate, and high complexity laboratories.

Clinical Lab Scientists (CLS) have, at the minimum, a bachelor's degree and have completed a post-graduate training program in a DPH (Dept of Public Health) approved laboratory. After passing a licensure examination, they perform waived, moderate, and high complexity laboratory testing, including analyzing body fluids, cells, and tissue samples. A CLS must maintain instruments to assure the highest level of accuracy. They supervise unlicensed staff, phlebotomists and MLT. The CLS manages daily activities, direct quality assurance, finances, and technological improvements in the laboratory. In addition, the CLS may direct waived laboratories.

Medical Lab Technicians (MLT) have at least an associate degree plus hands-on training in a DPH approved laboratory and perform waived or moderate complexity testing.



Certified Phlebotomy Technicians (CPT) have at least a high school education and are certified to draw blood and process specimens but are not licensed to perform or report laboratory test results. They play an important role in the pre-analytical phase of testing (collection and preparation the specimen).