

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

Minimum Standards for Medical Diagnostic Laboratories (or Pathological Laboratories) - Every clinical establishment relating to diagnosis or treatment of diseases, where pathological, bacteriological, genetic, radiological, chemical, biological investigations or other diagnostic or investigative services, are usually carried on with the aid of laboratory or other medical equipment, shall comply with the minimum standards of facilities and services as specified in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Type of Laboratory	Level 1 (Basic Composite)	Level 2 (Medium)	Level 3 (Advance)
1	2	3	4	5
I	Scope of Services	These tests (as mentioned below) can be performed in mobile laboratory at field locations also.	In addition to the tests performed in Level - 1(basic composite) laboratory, including tests mentioned as under.	In addition to tests performed in Level 2 (medium) laboratory, additional tests mentioned as under.
	(a) Biochemistry	Routine Biochemistry tests like Blood Sugar, Renal Function Tests, Liver Function Tests, Amylase, Lipase, Lipid profile, Cerebra - Spinal Fluid (CSF) and other biological fluids (glucose and protein), Oral Glucose Tolerance Test, Electrolytes, Calcium or Phosphate, HbA1c, any bio chemistry based rapid test.	Hormone Bioassay, Tumor markers, plasma protein electrophoresis	(a) coagulation profile, Drug monitoring and toxicology assay, (b) Molecular genetics, tests for detection of inborn errors of metabolism
	(b) Haematology	Haemogram, Bleeding Time, Clotting Time, Prothrombin Time, Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time, Blood grouping and matching.	Coagulation Assay	All other Haematology tests also.
	(c) Histopathology	NIL	May do, subject to availability of equipment and specialist	Histopathology Examination
	(d) Molecular Genetics	NIL	May do, subject to availability of equipment and specialist	Molecular genetics
	(e) Cytopathology	NIL	PAP smear, Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology(FNAC), sputum and CSF cytology	Immuno Cytochemistry. Other biological fluid cytology; Ultrasound or CT guided FNAC.
	(f) Immuno-	NIL	NIL	Immunohisto-

	histopathology			chemistry:
	(g) Medical Microbiology & Immunology	Basic tests like Rapid Test (Point of Care tests) for infection, urine routine examination and microscopy, Hanging drop for Vibrio cholerae, Stool for ova, cyst. All HIV positive rapid assays need to be confirmed from the next level diagnostic laboratory.	a) Serological tests for viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites (b) Cultural Sensitivity tests: Bacterial or fungal (c) Other special stains besides Gram's stain.	(a) Culture sensitivity tests for viruses. (b) Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RTPCR) tests. (c) Tissue diagnosis test for infectious diseases.
II	INFRASTRUCTURE			
		Level 1 (Basic Composite)	Level 2 (Medium)	Level 3 (Advance)
	1. Signage			
	(a) Basic signage- A signage within or outside the facility should be made available containing the following information.	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(b) Name of the person-in- charge with qualification and registration number	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(c) Broad services provided i.e. Haematology, Biochemistry, Clinical Pathology, Histology, Cytology, Molecular Genetics- whichever is applicable	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(d) Timings of the different consultants	Desirable	Essential	Essential
	(e) Internet facility or Telephone and mobile number for appointment	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
	(f) Fee structure: To be displayed separately including type of investigation and charges i.e., Special and routine tests	Essential	Essential	Essential

2. Safety Signage (Wherever applicable)			
(a) Safety hazard and caution signs - Biomedical waste segregated in coloured bins and bags as per Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 including radioactive materials, toxic chemicals, microbial agents, infected biological material.	Essential	Essential	Essential
(b) Appropriate Fire exit signages - Minimum one fire extinguisher	Desirable	Desirable	Essential
3. Space requirement			
(a) Registration and waiting room, public utilities, safe drinking water etc.	Desirable	Essential	Essential
(b) Sample collection area	Essential	Essential	Essential
(c) Laboratory with adequate diffuse and spot lighting	Essential	Essential	Essential
(d) Toilet	Essential	Essential	Essential
(e) Reporting and billing area	Essential	Essential	Essential
(f) Staff room and doctor's duty room – Male and female different where 24 hours services available	Desirable	Desirable	Essential
(g) Washing room	Essential	Essential	Essential
(h) Preservation of the specimens and slides	Essential	Essential	Essential
(i) Electrical facilities	Essential	Essential	Essential
(j) Temperature control for specialized equipment like flow cytometry and chemiluminescence equipment ,ELISA test equipment etc.	Essential	Essential	Essential
(k) Counselling room for HIV	Essential, if HIV test is done	Essential, if HIV test is done	Essential, if HIV test is done
(l) FNAC room for all patients for sample	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable

	collection			
	(m) Dark room for Immuno-fluorescence	Not required	Not required	Not required
	(n) Frozen Section facilities	Not applicable	Essential	Essential
	4. Furniture and fixtures	Essential	Essential as per scope of services	Essential as per scope of services
	5. Communication system - Telephone and mobile number for appointment	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
	6. Wash Basins	Essential	Essential	Essential
III	HUMAN RESOURCE			
	<p>a) Minimum qualification of Technical Head of Laboratory or Specialist or *Authorised Signatories.</p> <p>*The authorised signatory will be liable for authenticity of the laboratory test report.</p>	<p>Desirable: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from a recognised university institution.</p> <p>**Where ever interpretation of lab results or opinion there on are required, registered Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) medical practitioner is essential.</p>	<p>Essential: Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplome of National Board (DNB) in Pathology or Biochemistry or Medical Microbiology or Laboratory Medicine or Diploma in Clinical Pathology (DCP) or Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) with Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in any of the subjects above.</p> <p>Desirable: If any special test of other speciality is done, it is desirable that specialist of that subject needs be there on full time or part time or outsourced basis.</p> <p>* Special tests means any other apart from routine basic biochemistry, haematology, or medical microbiology tests</p>	<p>Essential: Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplome of National Board (DNB) in Pathology or Biochemistry or Medical Microbiology or Laboratory Medicine or Diploma in Clinical Pathology (DCP) or Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) with Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in any of the subjects above.</p> <p>Desirable: If any special test of other speciality is done, it is desirable that specialist of that subject needs be there on full time or part time or outsourced basis.</p> <p>*Special tests means any other apart from routine basic biochemistry, haematology, or medical microbiology tests as listed in basic composite laboratory.</p>

			as listed in basic composite laboratory. Illustration: (i) Special Tests pertaining to Bio-Chemistry and Microbiology shall be reported by Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) <i>Bio-Chemistry and</i> Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Microbiology respectively. (ii) Biopsies or Cytology specimens has to be reported by a person possessing Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Pathology.	Illustration: (i) Special Tests pertaining to Bio-Chemistry and Microbiology shall be reported by Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) <i>Bio-Chemistry and</i> Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Microbiology respectively. (ii) Biopsies or Cytology specimens has to be reported by a person possessing Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Pathology.
	(b) Number of laboratory technicians with Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT) or Bachelor of Science (BSc.) Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) or Master of Science (M.Sc.) Bio-chemistry or Microbiology qualification from a recognised university or institution.	Essential: 1	Essential: 2	Essential: 4
	(c) Support staff (Laboratory Assistant or Laboratory Attendant) Roster of salary of staff, Periodic health checkups and vaccination of staff.	Essential: 1	Essential: 1	Essential: 2

IV INSTRUMENTS OR EQUIPMENT OR DRUGS				
	(a) List of minimum medical diagnostics laboratory equipment with quantity	Essential as per scope of services	Essential as per scope of services	Essential as per scope of services
	(b) List of minimum medical diagnostics laboratory instruments with quantity	Essential as per scope of services	Essential as per scope of services	Essential as per scope of services
	c) Sterilisation such as hot air oven or autoclave	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(d) List of reagents and consumables required	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(e) List of Disposables	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(f) Policy of annual maintenance contract or comprehensive maintenance contract and records for equipment (Log books)	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
V LEGAL OR STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS				
	Legal or statutory requirements such as registration under the provisions of Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 with State or Union territories' Pollution Control Board with registration number and date of expiry, site, space, location and environmental requirements to be as per local bye- laws	Essential	Essential	Essential
VI RECORD MAINTANENCE AND REPORTING				
	(a) Reports of all patients date wise and specialty wise for example: Histopathology, Cytology, Haematology and Laboratory Medicine.	Essential (Clinical Establishment to maintain information and statistics provided)	Essential (Clinical Establishment to maintain information and statistics provided)	Essential (Clinical Establishment to maintain information and statistics provided)
	(b) Medico legal records, if applicable (as per relevant law)	Essential	Essential	Essential

	(c) Record keeping of technicians working in laboratory indicating their details of qualification training and others	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(d) Availability of reference library including books or periodicals or e-journals or Compact Disc (CD)s	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
VII	STANDARDS ON BASIC PROCESSES			
	(a) Infection Control practices - as per Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(b) Safety considerations- use of disposable needles etc	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(c) Patient Information and Education	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(d) Process of calibration of equipment and reagents	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(e) Booklet of Standard operating procedures of all procedures available	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(f) Grievance registration and disposal mechanism	Essential	Essential	Essential
	(g) Quality Control in the form of external quality assurance scheme or inter-laboratory comparison, as the case may be	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
	(h) Policy of proficiency testing of tests performed.	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable