Joe has been in a car accident. Does he need blood?

Joe was on his way home from spring break when he hit an icy patch and rolled his car. Joe was found unconscious and bleeding. An ambulance arrived and rushed him to the hospital. A sample was drawn and sent to the lab, where it was determined that Joe needed blood. Without these tests, the doctor may not have been able to save Joe’s life.

Betty went to bed thinking she had the flu. Was it something worse?

Betty moved into the dorms for her first year of college. After a few weeks, she started to feel like she had the flu. Her boyfriend brought her soup and put her to bed. The next morning her dormmate found her dead. What caused her death? To find out what happened to her, go to geocities.com/medtechinfo.

Clinical Laboratory Scientists run thousands of tests each day to help doctors diagnose patients. To find out how these results can affect your life, visit our website at

www.geocities.com/medtechinfo

For more information or if you have questions please email medtechinfo@yahoo.com

A Day Without the Lab

Raising awareness for the field of Clinical Laboratory Science

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MeritCare School of Clinical Laboratory Science interns Class of 2008.
What is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist, also known as a Medical Technologist?

To receive the title of a Clinical Laboratory Scientist, completion of a bachelor's degree is required. This 4 year program may include a clinical internship or related work experience. The people in this field must learn all the modern testing methods and the disease processes associated with those tests. The scientist is responsible for not only doing the test but also assuring accurate results that are indicative of the patient's health status. The job of a laboratorian has changed a great deal to include more modern techniques like DNA and PCR testing, along with other more complicated and exact measures of patient cells and fluids.

Most Clinical Laboratory Scientists are skilled in all areas of the laboratory; however, they may specialize in areas such as microbiology, immunology, hematology, urinalysis, immunohematology, coagulation, clinical chemistry, toxicology, virology, cytology and cytogenetics.

The future of Clinical Laboratory Science is changing as well. The field is working on introducing a Doctorate degree for Clinical Laboratory Scientists. Currently, the United States is experiencing a growing need for Clinical Laboratory Scientists, making it a great career choice.

John woke up with a sore throat and stayed home from class. He went to the doctor that afternoon. Dr. Tons swabbed John's throat and sent the swab to the lab. The Clinical Laboratory Scientist informed Dr. Tons that John tested positive for strep throat. With this information, the doctor was able to choose the proper antibiotics to prescribe for John. Without proper treatment, John's infection could have caused a serious medical problem.

Jody, an 18 year old college freshman, went out on Friday night to a large party. She was having fun, drinking alcohol, and flirting with some older guys. One of the guys kept refilling her drink, so that she lost count of the number of drinks she had. An hour later she was found in a bedroom unconscious. Was she unconscious from all the alcohol she drank or was she drugged? Jody was brought to the emergency room and her blood was drawn and a urine sample was collected for testing. If the doctor cannot determine if she has alcohol poisoning or a drug overdose, her condition could be fatal. The lab was able to test the urine and blood samples and found she was suffering from alcohol poisoning. Without a Clinical Laboratory Scientist the proper diagnosis may not have been made.