

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT:

April 27—May 1

Laboratory

Last week was National Medical Laboratory Week, across Canada! This is a great opportunity to thank our Lab staff for all they do and recognize just what their jobs entail. RLMCMH employs three full time Lab Technologists (MLTs) and one part-time Lab Assistant. Last fiscal year, they conducted over 65,000 tests! The RLMCMH Lab provides both outpatient and inpatient services as well as after hours coverage. Each MLT at RLMCMH takes on an average of 1700 hours of “on-call”, each year — essentially, one third of their lives, after work. The Lab also manages the RLMCMH blood bank supply. In 2019, they gave out over 400 boxes of blood products and 43 units of packed red blood cells.

The Lab staff at RLMCMH work closely with the Nursing Team and the physicians. They are directly involved in patient care, as they typically conduct patient blood draws and other sample collection. The RLMCMH Lab is also proud to be a follower of the *Choosing Wisely Canada Campaign*— the purpose of which is to ensure high quality patient care, while minimizing waste, such as unnecessary lab tests and / or procedures.

73% of MLTs work in a Hospital setting, with the remainder in Public Health, community facilities, and academia. The labour market is a tight one — with 95% of Canadian MLTs in permanent roles and 80% with full-time work!

We are so lucky to have four very talented and dedicated staff members in our own Hospital Laboratory! Thank-you Jenn SW, Jenn P, Vicky, & Sue for all you do!

