



My Experience at the Alliance Lab

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School : Shoreline Community College

Program : Lab technician certificate/Biomanufacturing

Alliance Lab provides phlebotomy, sample processing, clinical laboratory diagnostics, sample referral services, and transfusions.

In the Alliance Lab, there are specimen processing specialists who work in the receiving, aliquoting, and TSS (transfusion support services) areas. Some specimen processing specialists are also licensed as Bone Marrow Techs (BMT) to aide in the preparation of bone marrow aspirate smears.

Juan Medina Izquierdo – Specimen Processing Manager

Jennifer Kyle-Stokes – Laboratory Director

Gil Rodis – Mentor

I was able to work with many of the specimen processing specialists and lab techs in the Alliance Lab this summer.

Receiving – ‘checking in’ a specimen sample into the lab and distributing it throughout the lab as necessary

Aliquoting – decanting specimens as necessary and ensuring samples go where they are supposed to

TSS – helping providers obtain RBCs and platelets for patients who require infusions

BMT – prepare bone marrow aspirate smears, biopsy slides, and other media for testing

In the **clinical testing** department, the hematology and chemistry teams (MLTs) run tests on specimen samples.

Ex. CBC on blood samples, COVID tests on nasal swabs, Urinalysis on urine samples, etc.



Blood collection tubes have different sizes and color tops depending on the additive in the tube. To determine where a tube is headed in the lab, we used the UW Lab Test Guide to figure out what test is being performed.

Common tests included CBC with differential, blood gas test, TSH with T4, etc.

If a test can't be performed in the Alliance Lab, it is sent out to Harborview Medical Center, UW, or other outside labs.

Highlights of my summer at the Alliance Lab :

Getting to watch bone marrow aspirate procedures.

Meeting the many processing specialists and lab techs and learning about the different paths they took to get to where they are today.

Rotating through the different stations at the Alliance Lab and learning about how they all connect.