

WMH lab rates high during inspection

Friend's Warren Memorial Hospital (WMH) had a visit from a State Laboratory Inspector. "We passed with flying colors," stated Shelly Holman, MLT (ASCP), Laboratory Manager.

WMH's lab is inspected every two years by a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) inspector. CLIA provides the hospital with interpretative guidelines, which include education, policy and procedures, quality control, and preanalytical and post analytical requirements. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulate all laboratory testing performed on humans in the U.S. through the CLIA. Over 189,000 laboratory entities are monitored by the CLIA.

The objective of the CLIA program is to insure quality laboratory testing. All clinical labs must be properly certified to receive Medicare or Medicaid payments. The CLIA is among several accrediting agencies which fill that requirement.

Holman took over as Laboratory Manager when Tom Sciffern retired this past January. As she explained, "Because of his incredible knowledge and mentoring skills, I felt I was ready to take on the challenge of running an efficient lab. And, I can't forget Alphe Aguila, MT, our full-time Laboratory Technician. She is also very knowledgeable and has helped me out during my transition."

It certainly is a nice benefit having an accredited laboratory available locally.