

Pediatric Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

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Biomedical Laboratory Technologists or Scientists play a fundamental role in diagnosis and disease management of patients. South Africa has the largest economy in Africa but is one of the most inequitable societies in the world, illustrated by the disparity between private and public sector healthcare funding. Eighty-four percent of South Africans cannot afford to contribute to private health care insurance and are thus reliant on the public health care systems which utilize the laboratory services provided by the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS). The NHLS provides South Africans access to pathology services in both the private and state funded medical laboratories. The service provides a comprehensive range of laboratory tests across all medical laboratory science disciplines. A mere 16% of the South African population belong to private medical aids which gives them greater benefits for utilization of private pathology laboratory services after consultation with a clinician. These private pathology laboratories provide additional comprehensive specialized diagnostic analyses for patient treatment. This was a qualitative study making use of semi-structured open ended questions. Four hundred eighty surveys were sent out using an online program called Survey Monkey. There was a response rate of 32.4%.