

Hemas Hospital now equipped with the only fully automated laboratory in Sri Lanka

Monday, 07/06/2010

“Laboratory test results are a vital factor in arriving at clinical diagnosis and treatment. Clinical decisions made by the Doctor, depends a lot on the accuracy of those results. Barcoding of the samples have been identified as one of the safest method to prevent sample mix-up which could lead to disastrous clinical situations. Automation is a common method used in developed countries to minimize human intervention in laboratory testing and errors as a result of human mistakes .Inter-phasing of the lab equipment ensures the speed as well as accuracy by minimizing data entry errors” says Dr. Aruna Rabel – Director, Medical Services, Hemas Hospitals (Pvt) Ltd.

Hemas Hospital, Wattala just commissioned fully integrated Bar-coding, Inter-phasing and fully automated Laboratory System which is the first of that kind in Sri Lanka.

It includes a unique system of integration of the laboratory process, interfacing of analysers with the hospital’s information system and a new barcode system which eliminates errors in entering or documentation of patient details. This also enables to track and trace the stage of a laboratory test through the entire laboratory process. In addition, all advanced automated laboratory equipment (analysers) have been integrated into a common computer system which is capable of carrying out a wide range of laboratory tests with minimum human intervention. According to Dr Rabel, this would further reduce the errors and improve the efficiency.

Expressing his satisfaction on the new developments Dr. Rohan Sugatadasa – Laboratory Manager said that Hemas Hospital laboratory is now capable of providing a quality and reliable service which in turn would build confidence among patients as well as doctors. We have the only fully automated clinical laboratory in Sri Lanka.

The integrated system is linked to the Hospital’s Information System which enables doctors to view the reports on the computer screen from wards and consultation rooms as soon as the test is performed. With test results being made available faster, necessary treatment can be given without delay. All the results are electronically saved and can be retrieved if needed.

A wide range of laboratory tests with minimum manual handling is now carried out as a result of the integration of all the laboratory equipment into a common computer system. According to Dr Rabel, this would further reduce the errors and improve efficiency and reliability.

Among the advanced equipments integrated and interfaced into the system are state-of-the-art biochemistry analysers which perform tests such as blood glucose and cholesterol levels, hormone analysers, Full Blood Count (haematology) analysers and High Performance Liquid Chromatography analysers.

The system is also capable of storing the data of all laboratory test results and patients' data for follow-ups and it has the capability of generating text messages to patients as well as doctors to inform them of abnormal test results. This new development has the capacity of sending the lab reports electronically to relevant doctors or patients upon request while ensuring confidentiality.

Hemas Hospital laboratories both in Wattala and Galle, continuously strive to maintain the highest standards of quality through regular monitoring of internal quality and an international quality assurance program.

While the entire operation of the laboratory is carried out by an experienced team of graduates and medical laboratory technicians, they are monitored by an eminent panel of consultants which includes Histo-pathologists, Microbiologists, Clinical Biochemists and Haematologists. Over 25000 tests are processed within the Hemas chain of hospitals every month. This has been growing rapidly during last one year.

The lab also has provided mobile health screening services to many leading corporates around the country including Fonterra, Toyota and Print Care.