**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAKURDI.**

**DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES.**

**Functions :**

This Directorate is one among the eight directorates of the ministry of health and human service. It is the youngest directorate created at the ministry in the year 2014.

**Duties of Medical Laboratory Service Department**

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Formulation, advising, and implementation of policies on Medical Laboratory Services.

Supervised and general administration on laboratory matters.

Review of Medical Laboratory policies and programs.

PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Draw plans and budgets for the department.

Ensure rational implementation and execution of laboratory plans and budget on yearly basis.

Undertaking resources planning and utilization.

Ordering/Requesting and indenting laboratory reagents, chemicals, biological, equipment, etc.

COLLABORATION WITH MLSCN

Registration of medical diagnostic laboratories in the state following the lay down standards of MLSCN in terms of; site, workspace, available facilities, and resources (human and materials).

Provisional inspection and assistance in accreditation for recommendation to MLSCN.

Regulation of the practice of medical laboratory services in the state in compliance with MLSCN-set rules and standards.

Registration of private school of medical laboratory sciences for the training of medical laboratory technicians across the state.

Routine supervision of all such schools across the state.

Yearly renewals of which these monies are paid to the ministry through BIRS staff posted to the ministry only.

Registration of private medical laboratories across the state to augment government efforts in the availability of standard medical laboratory services.

Routine supervision of both private and public laboratories across the state.

Yearly renewals of which these monies are paid to the ministry through BIRS staff posted to the ministry only.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES

Preparation, coordination, monitoring, and evaluating diagnosis of outbreaks/epidemics

Preparation, evaluation, and monitoring of reports on epidemiological surveys.

Epidemics disease surveillance and controls.

Production of epidemiological data.

Prompt reporting of drug resistance/new infectious microbes.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND CONTROLS

Ensure and maintain standards operational procedures (SOP) are followed in all the laboratories across the state both private and publics

Evaluation of all diagnostic labs. Reagents, chemicals, and biological.

Preparation of materials for quality control (QC) programs in the state.

Ensure that all labs. Participate in (QC) programs in the state.

Maintain deferral and referral system within all the labs. In the state.

Ensure that all blood and blood products for transfusion are nutritive and screened free from all blood-transmissible diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, etc.

All HIV-positive screen tests are well-confirmed before the results are released.

Transportation- (TRANEX) who are responsible for transportation of samples, such as VHF, COVID-19, monkeypox, LF,, etc to NRL Gaduwa, Abuja.

Assist some facilities with sample login to testing sites, where such labs. Lacks the facilities to test.

Blood transfusion services.

Maintain

A relatively centralized blood transfusion service that are semi-autonomous, multi-sectional, and multi-disciplinary in approach.

Organize a blood donor committee that will be responsible for voluntary unpaid donor recruitments.

Organize donor committees based on strategic support such as implementing partners (IP), military formations, police, mass media, student bodies and local government health education units, etc.

Maintain rational distribution of blood and its products.

Provide for minimum donor s gift/inceptive.

RESEARCH COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT;

Production of the local lab. Products of diagnostic and antibiogram studies such as stains and unstained antigens for typhoid, paratyphoid, brucellosis, and typhus fever as well as bacteriological antisera, antibiotics susceptibility disc, frozen plasma, etc.

Epidemic disease outbreaks and samples collection, and reports for use in formulating new diagnostic procedures.

Development of a new diagnostic lab. Techniques for use in detecting etiological agents in an outbreak of epidemics.

Search for ways of inactivating viruses in blood and adapting rational measures for pre-transfusion tests.

OTHER ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE DIRECTORATE

Establishment of mortuaries across the state.

Seeking legal approval from the state house of assembly as a legal means of generating money for persons seeking approval to establish private mortuaries across the state, since there is no legal backing to permit individuals to pay the registration fee and annual renewal fees.

Challenges

Shortage of co-professional staff.

The Laboratory department has no functional vehicle.

No overhead to carry out routine monitoring and supportive supervision.