

## Have you ever wondered where your blood test goes?

When somebody has a blood test, it is sent to a laboratory in the hospital. There are people called healthcare scientists in these laboratories, and they test your blood. Healthcare scientists can tell a lot of things about your health by looking at the results of your blood test. The doctor will be able to pass this information to you and decide the next steps for your care. So although many healthcare scientists work 'backstage', the work they do is really important!



## Did you know...

You might not see them all, but there are more than 50,000 healthcare scientists in the NHS!

The work they do underpins 80% of all diagnoses<sup>1</sup>. So without them we'd be in a bit of a pickle!

## What do the labs do?

There are different types of labs in a hospital including:

- Immunology**- they look at your immune system
- Haematology**-they look at the cells in your blood
- Histology**-they look at your tissues and organs
- Microbiology**-they look at microbes
- Genetics**-they look at your DNA
- Biochemistry**- they look at a variety of molecules in your blood

## ...welcome to biochemistry!

### What does a scientist do in biochemistry?

They are the Sherlock Holmes of the blood! Healthcare scientists in biochemistry do detective work to piece a puzzle together to benefit patients. The doctors and nurses have collected some clues, and we team together with them to put all of these clues together. This includes looking at the patient's symptoms, their history, and of course the blood test results which we generate in the lab. Together, these clues help diagnose or monitor a health condition. We can tell so much from just a tiny amount of blood! We have big machines which help us with our testing...

## Did you know...

Although we test lots of blood samples, we can also test your urine, faeces, saliva, and something called cerebrospinal fluid- this comes from your spine!



## Scientists in biochemistry help to diagnose...



## ...and more! This shows the importance of healthcare scientists

### How do I get into this career?

Choose science subjects in the future, and keep an eye out for opportunities in STEM, especially in the NHS.

In the future, gaining scientific work experience will be really valuable...maybe you can ask for a tour around your local NHS lab!