

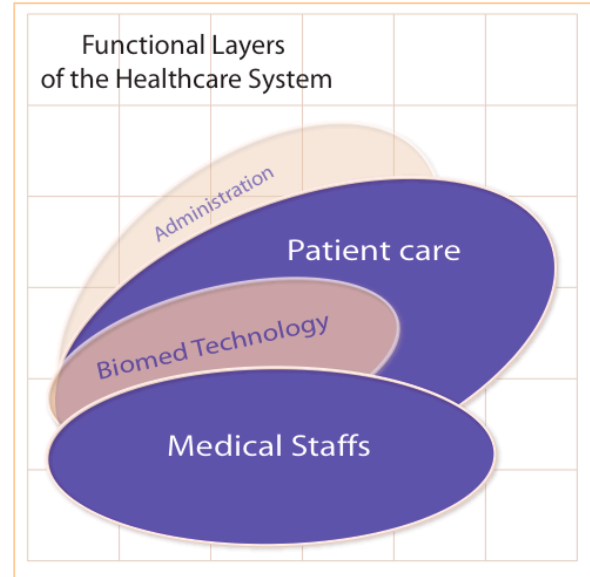
Biomed in Healthcare

Where does the Department of Clinical (or Biomedical) Engineering fit into the healthcare structure?

Every hospital or healthcare facility is built around a professional staff of physicians, surgeons and nurses. And the primary focus of their attention is, of course, the patient.

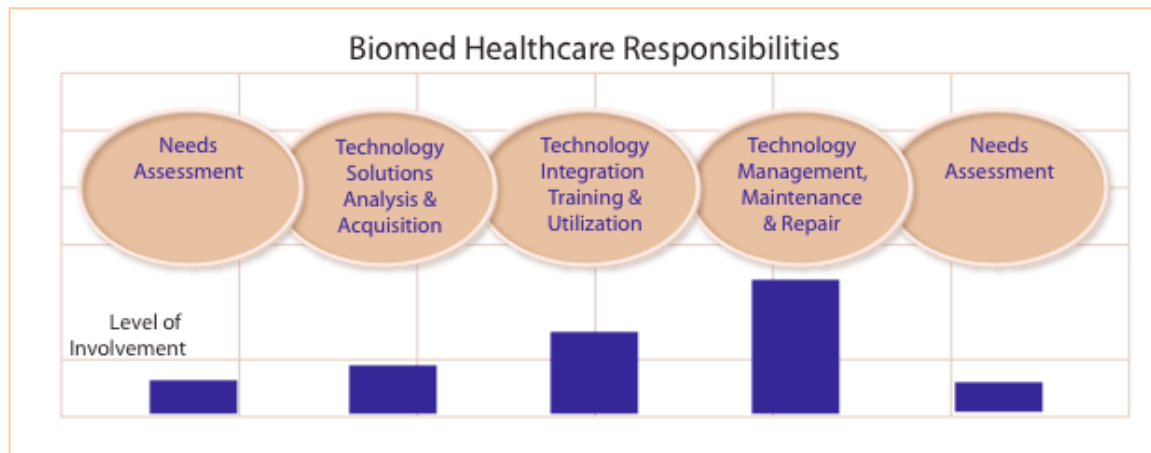
These professionals have at their disposal a vast array of costly and technologically sophisticated medical devices – everything from defibrillators and infusion pumps to MRIs – to aid them in their work.

On average, there are about 20 pieces of equipment for each bed in a hospital. Thus, a 500-bed hospital may have about 10,000 individual pieces of equipment for use in patient care. *Responsibility for maintaining these devices rests with the Biomedical Engineering Department and its staff of biomedical technicians. It is an essential, yet largely unseen, hospital function.*



What do these Biomedical technicians do?

Biomedical technicians often are called BMETs or clinical engineers, and their primary responsibilities include the management, maintenance and repair of technology-related healthcare equipment. BMETs also assist healthcare professionals in equipment needs assessment, solutions analysis and the acquisition process. Once equipment is in inventory, BMETs help with training and utilization of these devices and ensure that they meet rigid regulatory standards. They also perform periodic maintenance and performance verification.



The focus of a healthcare institution is on delivering a high Standard of Care to its patients. *BMETs help ensure that the medical team has the technology-driven equipment and devices essential to achieving this level of patient care.*