



COLLEGE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS OF MANITOBA

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Point of Care Testingⁱ

Position Statement

The College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Manitoba (CMLTM) endorses Point of Care Testing (POCT) when it is overseen by a medical laboratory. A laboratory POCT program is a collaborative and coordinated process between the clinical laboratory and other health care professionals, and there is clear evidence that the use of this technology improves the quality of patient care.

POCT is laboratory testing performed at or near the patient, outside of a central laboratory environment. It is usually performed by non-laboratory health care professionals using a variety of methods which may include strips, kits or instruments/devices. Benefits to POCT may include improved turnaround times, improved patient outcomes, reduce diagnosis and treatment time, and decrease workload by reducing on call for laboratory staff.

Technological advancements have produced portable, easy to operate instruments that can deliver rapid, high quality test results.

Point-of-care testing programs require:

- Approval and selection of POC tests to be performed
- Inter-professional collaboration and effective communication
- Evaluation and determination of potential improvements for patient outcomes
- Standardization and performance verification of testing instrumentation
- Personnel training, certification and re-certification
- Accessible continuing education
- Ongoing resources to support the program
- Effective cost management

Clinical laboratories and medical laboratory professionals focus on assuring quality results and continuous quality improvement of all laboratory testing wherever the procedures are performed. Medical laboratory professionals have the responsibility for the management of POCT quality by providing leadership and expertise in:

- Developing, maintaining, delivering and reviewing appropriate training programs to ensure competency of operator(s)
- Assisting in the development of operating procedures
- Establishing and monitoring appropriate documentation of test results
- Establishing and monitoring quality control practices



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- Implementing and auditing proficiency programs for testers
- Ensuring compliance with equipment protocols

References:

ISO 22870:2016 Point-of-care testing (POCT) -- Requirements for quality and competence

Environmental Scan - Point-of –Care Testing - CADTH

https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/es0308_point_of_care_testing.pdf

ⁱ Adopted from CSMLS Position Statement Point of Care Testing