OBJECTIVES

- To define roles of authority, responsibility and accountability for Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) within Alberta Health Services settings.

PRINCIPLES

- Alberta Health Services identifies Laboratory Services to be the responsible body with authority for governance, oversight, and quality of all Point-Of-Care Testing (POCT) practice within Alberta Health Services in compliance with International Standards Organization (ISO), Accreditation Canada, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) accreditation standards.

- A multidisciplinary POCT management group with applicable representation from laboratory, administration, information systems, procurement and clinical programs appointed by Laboratory Services is responsible to advise on the provision of POCT.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

1. Authority

   1.1 A multi-disciplinary management group (based on the expertise required for the specific program/scope) will be appointed by Laboratory Services to advise on all aspects of POCT.
1.2 The management group will:

a) ensure authorities are defined and communicated within Alberta Health Services;

b) ensure responsibility is shared between and communicated to the applicable user group/program;

c) ensure devices and systems are evaluated and selected to include performance criteria such as analytic and clinical validity, clinical utility, cost effectiveness and ease of use;

d) evaluate all proposals for new devices, products or systems for POCT and manage contracts accordingly; and

e) ensure there is a funding source for all the costs of point-of-care including but not limited to capital, operations and implementation.

2. Roles and Responsibility

2.1 The management group will ensure that:

a) users are trained, competent and follow standard operating procedures, accreditation standards and industry standards of practice;

b) users are responsible to report all devices both active and under consideration to Laboratory Services;

c) equipment is validated, properly stored and handled and functioning correctly;

d) reagents are validated, working properly, not expired or deteriorated and are appropriate for use;

e) processes are in place to ensure that staff properly prepare for tests, confirm patient identity, safely and effectively perform the tests, and accurately and securely report POCT results;

f) Alberta Health Services provides the necessary resources and governance documents to deliver high quality POCT;

g) Alberta Health Services regularly monitors and improves the quality of POCT; and

h) appropriate action is taken when non-compliance is identified in accordance with program requirements.
DEFINITIONS

Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) means a diagnostic laboratory examination performed outside a designated laboratory environment, generally nearer to, or at the site, of the patient/client; may employ the use of instrumented/non-instrumented testing. (CPSA)

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
  - Point-of-care testing (POCT) - Requirements for quality and competence, 2006
  - International Standard Organization (ISO 22870)
  - Standards for Diagnostic Laboratory Accreditation: General, February 2014 – V2
    (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta)
  - Accreditation Canada Standards

VERSION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click here to enter a date</td>
<td>Optional: Choose an item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click here to enter a date</td>
<td>Optional: Choose an item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>