

Your responsibilities – a summary

DO NOT share your password/barcode with anyone. The result produced is your legal responsibility.

Similarly, **DO NOT** use anyone else's password/barcode, even if they are present on the ward/in the department. Please organise training and get issued with your own password and/or barcode – **THIS IS THE SAFEST WAY FOR YOU.**

Please use the equipment as you have been trained to, in accordance with the standard operating procedure. This includes acting upon results appropriately.

Only use equipment that it is working properly, is clean and has been appropriately quality controlled.
Report any adverse incidents related to POCT use to management.

Contact Details and Information

If you have any problems using a POCT device, speak to your ward link trainer or ward manager in the first instance. If they are unavailable or are unable to resolve the issue please contact the laboratory POCT Co-ordinators:

- Glucose meters, blood gas analysers, pregnancy sticks: x4712 or ruh-tr.biochempoc@nhs.net
- Hemocue or CoaguChek: x4728
- Urinalysis meters: x4740 or ruh-tr.urinedipstick@nhs.net
- Barcode replacements: x4712
- For all relevant documentation including standard operating procedures, barcodes or password access, competency assessments and training details:
Use the RUH intranet:

Clinical directory → Pathology → POCT

Point of Care Testing Core Skills Information for All Staff

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Point of Care Testing Core Skills Information for All Staff

Point of Care Testing Top Tips



What is Point of Care Testing (POCT)

POCT involves the use of any device that generates a result in a clinical setting by non – laboratory staff. Examples of some POCT devices include glucose meters, hemocues (pictured above), urine testing strips (e.g. pregnancy and urinalysis) and blood gas analysers. It can also be referred to as Near Patient Testing (NPT). We use the term POCT at the RUH.

The benefits of POCT include prompt availability of results which can be acted upon by clinical staff to provide immediate patient care.

Name:

Training and Competency Assessment

Only staff whose training is recorded and whose competence can be demonstrated are permitted to use a POCT device.

Training is provided by ward link trainer (or ward manager); device manufacturer or laboratory staff (see contact details).

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

All devices have an SOP which must be followed at all times.

An SOP includes the instructions for use for samples and quality control material (QC), how to maintain and clean equipment and also how to respond to results etc.

SOPs are kept with the POCT device or available on the ward. They are also available on the Trust Intranet under the POCT section:

www.ruh.nhs.uk/pathology/poct

Always be aware of situations when the device should NOT be used, e.g., the device has an error message displaying, QC fails, etc.

Equipment

Ensure that the device is functioning correctly and is kept clean. How to do this is described in the relevant SOP.

DO NOT use any device you know or suspect to be faulty. Report this to your link trainer, ward manager or the lab (see contact details).

Results

POCT results are comparable to laboratory generated results.

POCT results should be reviewed and acted on by appropriately qualified staff with particular reference to patient history.

Repeat spurious results or results that do not fit the clinical picture.

Confirm abnormal results by sending a sample to the laboratory, e.g. glucose above action range.

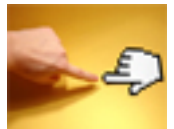
Record keeping

Ensure accurate transcription of result(s) to the patient's notes. Always include:

- Result(s)
- Date/Time performed
- Device (incl. location)
- Test strip or cartridge lot no.
- Operator identity (of person performing and person transcribing result).

Record and log any incident, however small, using Datix.

Datix is available on the RUH Desktop Dashboard.



There is a POCT section for recording incidents like spoiled sample (e.g. clotted blood gas sample), failure to act upon critical results etc.

Health & Safety

Be aware of the potential hazards associated with the handling and disposal of body fluids, sharps and waste reagents when performing POCT.