### Developing and Maintaining a POCT Program

James H. Nichols, Ph.D., DABCC, FACB **Professor of Pathology** Tufts University School of Medicine Medical Director, Clinical Chemistry **Baystate Health System** Springfield, Massachusetts james.nichols@baystatehealth.org





## **Objectives**

- Define POCT
- Examine quality concerns with POCT
- Discuss the role of a POCT program in maintaining quality
- Offer tips for managing POCT
- Reviewing resources for POC Coordinators



## POCT Definition Clinical laboratory testing conducted close to the site of patient care, typically by clinical personnel whose primary training is not in the clinical laboratory sciences or by patients (self-testing).

- POCT refers to any testing performed outside of the traditional, core or central laboratory.
- Nichols JH (editor) National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines: Evidence Based Practice for Point of Care Testing. AACC Press: 2007.
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# **Point of Care Testing**

#### Advantages

- Immediate results no lab transportation
- Small blood volume
- Wide menu of tests available
- Whole blood and other samples available
- Works within clinical patient flow

#### Disadvantages

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- More expensive than traditional laboratory tests
- Quality is questionable as anyone can run the analysis
- Difficulties with regulatory compliance and documentation
- Lack of appreciation for preanalytic, analytic, postanalytic issues
  - Compliance issues with billing and charge capture

### **The POCT Market**

#### 1998

US\$ 4.9 Billion world-wide 25% of IVD testing market

Projected annual growth of 12%

#### **Hospital POCT**

POL



#### **Blood Glucose**

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Stephans EJ. Developing Open Standards for Connectivity IVD Technology 1999;5:22,25



#### Home Testing

Cambridge Consultants POCT Diagnostic Market Report July 2006

#### 2003

US\$ 6.8 Billion world-wide 33% of IVD testing market

**Professional** 



#### Projected POCT Market 2008 2015

US\$ 13.1 Billion world-wide

Decreased glucose growth (managed care, price discounts)

Increase IA and molecular POC 6% annual growth, glucose <5%

Central Lab (69%)

US\$ 20.2 Billion world-wide

Central Lab growth in select areas of molecular, flow cytometry, AP keeps pace with POC growth



Central Lab (69%)

POCT (31%)

POCT (31%)

Emery Stephens, J POCT 2009;8(4):141-4.





## Point-of-Care Testing Quality Issues

- Complaints about SMBG devices represent the largest number filed with the FDA for any medical device (by 1993, over 3200 incidents, including 16 deaths).
   Greyson J. Diabetes Care 1993;16:1306-8.
- Poorly maintained urinometers and blood gas analyzers can act as an infectious reservoir for resistant microbes. Acolet D et al J. Hosp Infection 1994;28:273-86. Rutala WA et al. Am J Med 1981;70:659-63.
- Nine patients at two nursing facilities in Southern California were diagnosed with hepatitis B infection transmitted in association with blood glucose monitoring State of California Health and Human Services, Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification Program. Recommendations on the prevention and control of HBV transmission in diabetic patients who require blood glucose testing. July 2000.



# **CMS COW Lab Pilot Study**

- 1999 Ohio and Colorado inspections found over 50% of labs had significant quality and 7 – 10% were testing beyond certificate
- 2001 CMS expanded pilot inspected 2.5% (436 waived and PPM labs) in 8 states:
  - 32% did not perform QC as required
  - 16% failed to follow manufacturers' instructions
  - 7% did not perform calibration as required by the manufacturer



# **CMS COW Lab Pilot Study**

- Of the waived labs, in addition:
  - 23% had certificate issues (change name, director, address)
  - 20% cut occult blood cards and urine dipsticks
  - 19% had personnel without training/competency evaluation
  - 9% did not follow manufacturer's storage and handling instructions
  - 6% were using expired reagents/kits

DHHS Office of Inspector General Enrollment and Certification Processes in the CLIA Program. August 2001. OEI-05-00-00251



# CMS COW Lab Follow-Up

- Lab consultation and education improve performance of laboratories during inspections
- CMS initiating on-site visits to 2% labs
- CMS listed 15 Professional Societies and groups that offer educational opportunities
- State-by-State revisits to original 8 pilots
  - Varying improvement 7/8 states (total 74% or 61/82 labs)
  - No improvement 26% (26/82 labs)



## **POCT is a Complex System**

- Laboratory
  - One site
  - Limited instrumentation to perform bulk of testing
  - Limited staff, focused on same equipment daily
  - Staff trained in laboratory skills
- POCT

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- Dozens of sites, hundreds of devices and thousands of operators
- Staff are clinically focused on patient not on equipment
- Staff do not have laboratory training background

• Testing delegated to lower level staff (TAs, MAs)

## **Baystate Health System POCT**

METHOD	SITES	<b>DEVICES</b>	<b>OPERATORS</b>
Abbott XCeed Pro	46	220	2500
UriSys 1100	5	4	100
Pyloritek	2		15
Quidel Pregnancy	14		80
Quidel Strep	9		50
Hemoccult	2		50
Nitrazine pH	9		50
HIV	2		20
i-Stat-1	10	90	800
DCA2000/Afinion	6	б	40
ITC Signature Elite A	ACT 7	15	80
ITC ProTime PT	8	20	75
PPM	8		10
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## **POCT Program**

- The number of devices people and testing performed POCT in an institution requires an organization and management structure
- Many institutions have a POC Coordinator (often a lab staff) and POCT Committee to oversee practice
- POCT Committee can depersonalize the review process for test approval, inspection preparation and actions to deficiencies.



## **POCT Committee**

- Chair
- Lab POC Coordinator
- Nursing administration
- Purchasing
- Physician user of POCT results
- Outpatient clinic representation
- Affiliate hospitals
- Other services involved Pharmacy, Nutrition...









### **Standardize**

- Standardize instrumentation and methods across the health system
  - Minimizes number of different devices
  - One policy can be shared amongst sites
  - Central management system (ie oversight and data management)
  - Same methodology, clinical limitations
  - Share reference intervals (normal values)
  - Simplifies training and competency, float staff



### **Connectivity and Computerization**

- Computerized POCT devices automate the QA documentation (and billing) process by storing patient and operator identification with patient result, time and date.
- Electronic POCT data can be transmitted to the medical record, hospital information systems or other databases.
- Computerized POCT devices mandate performance of QC and lockout if not performed successfully. Operator lockout ensures only trained and competent staff perform testing
- Electronic data streamlines the quality review of large amounts of data
- Possibility of automating data reduction and alert algorithms to highlight problems and trends



## **POCT Data Transfer**

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- Automatically transfer data from devices to a central database
- Reduce data collection task
- Make data accessible to authorized personnel

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• Support quality control efforts



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#### Self-Management

- While POCT is a partnership between lab and clinical services, inspectors hold the site performing the test and CLIA director responsible
- The lab can't hold an operator's hand 24- hrs a day, sites must take charge
- Baystate has instituted a culture of self-management, starting in Jan 03.



## **Baystate Self-Management**

- POCT website developed with all of the tools necessary to manage POCT
- POCT sites have necessary resources, and have no one to blame but themselves for not succeeding
- Separates the lab from being responsible and in the middle of a nursing care process. Lab is available, nursing is responsible



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**Quality Improvement** 

POCT Committee

**CAP** Inspections

POCT Contacts

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### **Point of Care Testing**

Last updated: December 9, 2010

#### Contents

What's New in POCT?

The Department of Pathology POCT Staff

Contact Information

#### Welcome

Welcome to the Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) website. This site is designed to provide you the tools to manage your POCT program. Staff will find current policies and procedures, training forms, quality improvement scores for individual sites and guidance to manage their POCT program. Unit POCT contacts, nurse managers and directors are encouraged to visit this site frequently to keep up-to-date with the latest developments affecting their POCT.

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Mission

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## **POCT Website Afterthoughts**

- Protect your content
  - Use .pdf versions or copy protected word docs
  - Only allow access behind your institutional firewalls
  - Get IS involved in serving your content
  - Becomes important with separate physician offices/hospitals under separate CLIA just adopting your policies



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## **Site Self-Inspection**

- Key to self-management is site selfinspection
- Sites utilize same checklist that POC coordinators use to grade compliance
- Compliance tied directly to regulations
- Sites that regularly self-inspect are showing the most QA improvement



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# Integration

- Just providing faster results doesn't guarantee improved patient outcome
- Improved outcomes come from better use of faster results
- POCT is not an isolated process
- POCT results should be integrated into the overall patient-care pathway
- Need to consider
  - Why was the test ordered?
  - How is the result going to be utilized in care?
  - Is POCT the most appropriate method for patient need?
- Communication with clinician is key to delivering optimal POCT interpretation and next steps.





#### Clinical Outcomes of Point-of-Care Testing in the Interventional Radiology and Invasive Cardiology Setting

JAMES H. NICHOLS,<sup>1\*</sup> THOMAS S. KICKLER,<sup>1</sup> KAREN L. DYER,<sup>1</sup> SANDRA K. HUMBERTSON,<sup>1</sup> PEG C. COOPER,<sup>2</sup> WILLIAM L. MAUGHAN,<sup>3</sup> and DENISE G. OECHSLE<sup>2</sup>

**Background:** Point-of-care testing (POCT) can provide rapid test results, but its impact on patient care is not well documented. We investigated the ability of POCT to decrease inpatient and outpatient waiting times for cardiovascular procedures.

**Methods:** We prospectively studied, over a 7-month period, 216 patients requiring diagnostic laboratory testing for coagulation (prothrombin time/activated partial thromboplastin time) and/or renal function (urea nitrogen, creatinine, sodium, and potassium) before elective invasive cardiac and radiologic procedures. Overall pa0.02). For patients needing coagulation testing, wait times improved only when systematic changes were made in workflow (phase 4, 109  $\pm$  41 min; n = 12; P = 0.01).

**Conclusions:** Although POCT has the potential to provide beneficial patient outcomes, merely moving testing from a central laboratory to the medical unit does not guarantee improved outcomes. Systematic changes in patient management may be required.



## **CVDL Outcomes Trial**

- Prior to therapeutic intervention, patients require coagulation (PT/aPTT) and/or renal function testing (Na/K, BUN/Creat)
- Phase 1 workflow and patient throughput determined using central lab testing.
- N = 135 patients over 95 days

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• Despite arriving 120 minutes early if lab work needed, 44% of results not available prior to scheduled procedure time.

• Average patient wait time was 167 minutes





•, steps affected by implementation of POCT and workflow improvement initiatives. IV, intravencus drip; Coag, coagulation; Chem, chemistry; US, laboratory information system.

# JHH CVDL Outcomes Trial

- POCT improved wait times over core laboratory, but not significantly.
- Significant changes only occurred after unit workflow reorganized to optimize use of POCT results (implemented communication center between admit and procedure rooms); decreased wait times 63 mins for coag (N=9, p = 0.014) and 47 mins for renal (N=18, p = 0.02)
- Hospital chose not to implement POCT once patient workflow was streamlined for efficiency

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#### **POCT Improves Patient Outcome**

- Oncology Center 2 blocks from hospital
- Patients need estimate of renal function before administration of chemotherapy
- Hematology laboratory onsite performs cell counts and simple chemistries (i-stat)
- Creatinine sent to core lab periodic courier pickup (every 2 hours), means patients could wait up to 4 hours before testing completed
- Need faster turnaround time for results
   Nichols JH, Bartholomew C, Bonzagi A, Garb JL, Jin L. Evaluation of the IRMA TRUpoint and i-STAT creatinine assays. *Clin Chem Acta* 2007;377;201-5.



# **POCT Creatinine**

#### • Evaluated POCT creatinine (i-Stat and IRMA)

MDRD 60 mL/min	IRMA vs Jaffe	i-Stat vs Jaffe
+ Predictive Value	100%	67%
Efficiency	94%	90%
	IRMA vs Enz	i-Stat vs Enz
+ Predictive Value	78%	60%
Efficiency	96%	88%

- POCT gave higher creatinine levels, called more patients abnormal.
- Physicians had to adjust their cutoff levels for management decisions to higher creatinine (lower GFR) when utilizing POCT compared to lab
- POCT led to faster results and moved patients through clinic, resulting in increased patient and physician satisfaction



### **POCT Improves Patient Outcome**

- POCT creatinine improved patient care in our Heme/Onc clinic.
- But, pharmacy and clinicians had to use different cutoffs and ranges for POCT results compared to lab creatinine
- Need for test, tied to technology, and management after test result (ie pharmacy utilized to estimate GFR and alter dose of medication)
- Test integrated into pathway of care
- Care is streamlined as testing can occur when needed and treatment can follow as soon as result is available



### **POCT Information Management**

- POCT is a different technology
- Results are not equivalent to other laboratory methods without considering unique performance characteristics
- Baystate electronic medical record overlays results of the same name, so physicians can trend tests over time.
- POCT results cannot be freely interchangeable with other methodologies and electronic reporting must keep results separate.
- We've developed POCT flowsheets to automate reporting of POCT results.
  - POCT results in nursing notes separate from lab reported results
  - POCT results require selection of site location linked to licensure
  - Prevents intermixing of lab and POCT results, and misinterpretation



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<ul> <li>Negative (Normal)</li> <li>Trace (5 mg/dl)</li> <li>1+ (15 mg/dl)</li> <li>2+ (40mg/dl)</li> <li>3+ (80mg/dl)</li> </ul>	C < or = 1.005 C 1.010 C 1.015 C 1.020 C 1.025 C > or = 1.030	O Negative (Normal) O Trace O 1+ small O 2+ moderate O 3+ large	O 5.0 O 8.0 O 5.5 O 8.5 O 6.0 O > or = 9.0 O 6.5 O 7.0 O 7.5	<ul> <li>Negative (Normal</li> <li>Trace</li> <li>1+ (30 mg/dl)</li> <li>2+ (100 mg/dl)</li> <li>3+ (300 mg/dl)</li> </ul>
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○ 0.2 mg/dl ○ 1 mg/dl ○ 2 mg/dl ○ 4 mg/dl ○ >or = 8.0	O Negative (Normal) O Positive	O Negative (Normal) O Trace O 1+ small O 2+ moderate O 3+ large		

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- Open to anyone (including non members)
- Users can post a question and/or respond to other users
- Postings are sent to all users who join the group
- Provides opportunity to connect with colleagues and discuss issues



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- The leader in clinical and laboratory standards to improve the quality of medical care.
- To promote best practices in clinical and laboratory testing throughout the world, using a consensusdriven process that balances the viewpoints of industry, government, and the healthcare professions.
- CLSI encourages the involvement and association of all parties with interest in its programs and products.
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# CAP POCT Toolkit

- For laboratory directors of POCT
- A resource for any pathologist wanting to learn about POCT or who has responsibility to guide or direct POCT
- Useful for residents or those recently assigned to POCT
- Living document, built on content by submission of cases, etc (like Wikipedia, only peer reviewed)
- Organized into overview and then follows US CLIA regulations for rules and responsibilities of lab director with in depth discussion on specific roles and functions of the lab director. (like test selection, validation, etc)



# Summary

- POCT is an increasingly popular means of delivering laboratory testing closer to the site of patient care.
- A faster result isn't necessarily a better result
- Quality concerns require laboratory involvement and supervision of testing process
- Integration of POCT into patient care pathways ensures a link of test to patient outcome.
- Continued role of POCT program as a resource to clinical staff for policy, practice, education, troubleshooting and application of POCT results

