



North Mississippi Medical Center

Pathology Department

Policy #: 01.LAB.7020.0600.0919

Title: Point of Care Testing

Rationale: N/A

- Policy:**
1. The Point of Care (POC) Testing is under the direction, authority, jurisdiction, and responsibility of the Director of the Laboratory. Centralized coordination is performed by the Point of Care Coordinator.
 2. The Point of Care Coordinator or a Medical Technologist/Technician routinely reviews quality control and test results. The Medical Director and POC Coordinator review the overall quality control monthly. It is signed and retained for two years. Manuals which contain policies and procedures are reviewed every two years. Training and competency are coordinated by the POC Coordinator. Records are maintained in the Pathology and Education Department.
 3. The POC Testing is coordinated as part of the main laboratory, and all policies and procedures apply to the Point of Care Testing as it does to the main lab. See separate manuals for details.
 4. Persons who have been properly trained and deemed competent in POC testing may be employees of the organization, contracted staff, or employees of a contracted service.
 5. All material contaminated with biological samples must be disposed of in an appropriate biological waste container. Standard precautions are utilized when performing POC Testing. The Point of Care Department follows NMMC Safety and Infection Control policies to assure the safety of the patients and health care personnel.
 6. Quality control must be performed and documented as outlined in the appropriate procedures. Refer to the appropriate procedure for frequency of quality control testing.
 7. The following steps are to be taken if the quality control results are not within the acceptable limits:

- A. If one or both controls are not within the acceptable limits as outlined in the procedure, repeat the control that is out of range. If necessary, repeat with a new bottle of QC and/or strips, cartridge or cuvettes.
- B. If the control(s) is(are) still out of range after repeating, contact the Point of Care department at 377-3066 Ext. 6300660 or 2198 on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

At other times, contact the Pathology Department at 377-3066 and ask to speak to the supervisor in charge.

For POC problems occurring at Women's Hospital, contact Women's Hospital Laboratory at 377-4925.

- 8. For any assistance with POC testing, please contact appropriate persons at the numbers listed above in #7.
- 9. Tests are performed by adequately trained staff that have demonstrated satisfactory levels of competency.
- 10. Employees who perform **WAIVED** Point of Care Testing will have competency determined prior to performing initial tests, at 12 months, and annually thereafter. Employees who perform **NON-WAIVED** Point of Care Testing will have competency determined prior to performing initial tests, at 6 months, at 12 months, and annually thereafter. This is accomplished in several ways depending on the situation (ex., direct observation, QC material, written testing, etc.). Competency records are maintained by the Pathology and Education Departments.
- 11. Color blindness testing is done on all staff performing POC testing. If any deficiency is found, then the POC coordinator or designee observes the person performing color sensitive testing to determine testing competency.
- 12. The Point of Care Department assesses a subset of glucometers semi-annually with the CAP Quality Cross Check material.