



What is Point of Care Testing?

- ◆ **Point of Care Testing (POCT)** refers to any laboratory test performed outside the formal walls of the Clinical Laboratory. It may also be referred to as bedside testing.
- ◆ The FDA determines the level of test complexity – A POCT can either be waived or non-waived.
 - **Waived** –At ZSFG, those would include, Fingerstick Glucose; Chemistry Urine Dipsticks Urine Pregnancy; HemoCue (Hemoglobin); Vaginal pH; and Creatinine. **The Waived Testing Standards (WT.01.01.01-05.01.01) only apply to the Waived Tests.**
 - **Non-Waived** - At ZSFG these are: GEM Blood Gases, GEM Chemistries (Glucose; ionized Calcium, Lactate), GEM Hematocrit and GEM Co-oximetry; AVOX Co-oximetry, Activated Clotting Time; and PPMP studies. These tests are located in very specific critical areas of the hospital.

What is the intent of Waived Testing (WT) Standards 01.01.01 thru 05.01.01?

The intent of **Waived Testing (WT) Standards 01.01.01 thru 05.01.01** is for hospitals to keep patients safe by establishing reliable procedures for the performance of waived testing outside of the Clinical Laboratory and for evaluating provider/staff waived testing competency.

What will Joint Commission, CMS and CDPH surveyors observe staff for during a survey? During tracers and hospital tours, surveyors will observe/interview ZSFG staff as a means to 1) verify that ZSFG POCT's P&Ps are being adhered to and 2) assess staff competency.

How does ZSFG currently meet the expectation of the standard?

Administrative Policy 16.20: Point of Care Testing is the hospital policy which governs staff and provider practice. Education of staff and licensed independent practitioners on ZSFG POCT's policies and procedures is done at the department level.

➤ Know how staff is deemed competent to perform POCT:

- ◆ To perform POCT testing, the *California Business and Professions Codes (CBPC)* must be met. CBPC determines **who** may perform waived and non-waived tests.
- ◆ To perform POCT, staff must have **Initial Orientation & Training** and demonstrate **Competency** in performing the test after initial training and prior to patient testing, six months after initial competency assessment, one year after initial competency assessment, and annually thereafter.

◆ Know where to get information if you forget how to perform a test:

- ◆ Every unit in the hospital that performs POCT is required to have POCT policies and procedures readily accessible. All POCT P&Ps are available on the CHN Intranet or at [POCT Website](#) or [ZSFG Lab Manual](#).

➤ Know what is contained in the [POCT Website](#)



- ◆ From the POCT website, go to **HOME** and **About POCT (ABOUT POCT)**, to find the **ZSFG Administrative Policy 16.20-POCT** and the **POCT Quality Management Plan**. From [ZSFG Lab Manual](#), go to "Point of Care Testing Services" to find these.
- ◆ Vital information (P&P, Supplies, IDA page, SDS, etc.) for each POCT test can be accessed by selecting **WAIVED** and the test of interest on the POCT website.
- ◆ The I.D.A page covers
 - **Clinical Indications**: The reasons the test is performed on the specific unit.
 - **Documentation Plan**: Addresses **who** can perform the test, **what** test it is and **where** the test results are documented.
 - **Clinical Actions**: Addresses specifically what actions will be taken based on the results.

➤ **Know how long records are maintained:**

- ◆ All POCT related records must be accessible for up to 3 years.
- ◆ Records must be available for viewing upon request.

➤ **Know about Barcodes (for POCT instruments)**

- ◆ A Barcode ID is issued to staff who pass their Initial Orientation & Training and Competency. It is embedded with their California Professional ID Number.
- ◆ When the Barcode ID is "**working**", it is an indication that the POCT user has permission to perform testing on patients.
- ◆ When the Barcode ID is "**not working**", the POCT user does not have permission to test patients. There is a reason it is not working – most likely, the POCT user needs to complete the recertification test.
- ◆ Sharing of Barcode IDs is strictly forbidden just as sharing computer passwords is not allowed.

➤ **Know about Reference Ranges:**

- ◆ Reference ranges are required for laboratory test results.
- ◆ Reference ranges are the "**normal value ranges**" and should be used to evaluate the patient's test results to determine if any action is required on the part of the testing staff (e.g., notifying the MD when a test result is "out of range").
- ◆ Reference ranges must be located next to or in close proximity to the actual test result in the patient's medical record.

➤ **Know what "QC" stands for:**

- ◆ QC stands for **Quality Control**. This is testing performed at regular specified intervals **prior** to patient testing to ensure the test is working properly before the patient is tested.
- ◆ POCT QC results must be recorded and accessible upon request for 3 years.
- ◆ When QC results fail, patient results cannot be reported until QC passes. Adhere to the steps in the applicable POCT procedure when QC results fail.

➤ **Know how to tell when various reagents expire:**

- ◆ "**Reagents**" refers to the various items, such as test strips or test solutions, required to perform the test.
- ◆ **Different reagents expire at different intervals.** Be certain to check the particular POCT procedure to ensure you know when the reagents expire.

➤ **Know what to do if you do not trust a test result:**

- ◆ If a test result does not seem to correlate with a patient's clinical presentation (e.g. results seem **too low** or **too high**), repeat the test, perform a control test or send a specimen to the Clinical Laboratory for verification.
- ◆ It is not necessary to wait for the verification result if you feel the patient's care will suffer by waiting. Treat or inform MD according to the **last test** result.

➤ **Other points to know:**

- ◆ Always **wear gloves** when performing Point of Care Tests.
- ◆ Reagents must be located where the temperature is recorded every day. The temperature must be documented on an accessible Temperature Log or by an automated temperature monitoring system.

➤ **POCT instruments are to be cleaned according to the procedure and between every patient! (Instrument cases must also be cleaned if brought into the patient rooms.)**