



Joint Commission Webinar Series Laboratory – Point of Care Testing (POCT) Q&A

Useful Links:

- [Laboratory Handbook](#)
- [Joint Commission Preparation Checklist for Point of Care Site Coordinators POCT](#)
- [Self - Inspection Checklist for Site Coordinators](#)

Question: Where/how does clinic staff document the result? A telephone encounter? In my office these are not clinical staff.

Answer: Ambulatory clinical staff should document the time the result is received by the provider in notes. In a practice with no clinical staff and therefore no access to notes, a telephone encounter may be used.

Question: Does a skin cancer result which produces a referral count as documentation of a critical test result?

Answer: A referral does not count as documentation of a critical result. The result must be documented that it was received by the appropriate clinician (NP, APP or Physician).

Question: Is there a place where staff can find information about which tube to use for which test, in case they need this info?

Answer: This information can be obtained in the [Laboratory Handbook](#).

Question: Can medical assistants receive critical lab results? If so, did they have to be certified?

Answer: Medical assistants do not need to be certified to receive a critical result. If a medical assistant, or any staff member, receives a critical result they must document to who and when the result was relayed. Results should be relayed to an appropriate clinician (NP, APP, Physician) immediately.

Question: If a registered nurse (RN) took the critical result do they still need to document that they forwarded it to a provider?

Answer: Yes, if an RN receives the critical result, they must relay the information to the appropriate clinician (NP, APP, Physician) and document to who and when they relayed the information. Results should be relayed to an appropriate clinician immediately.

Question: Can medical assistants enter an order for POCT?

Answer: The order can be entered by a medical assistant but must be set up for co-signing.

Question: Is anyone willing to share protocols for POCT?

Answer: There are currently a limited number of protocols available in ellucid. (see below)

Question: What is the process for having a protocol approved?

Answer:

To begin the protocol approval process, complete the attached application and forward to [Brian French](#), RN-BC, PhD, Co-chair, Clinical Policy and Record (CPR) Committee. Brian will work with you to finalize and submit your application to the CPR Executive Committee. The CPR Executive Committee will review and revise before sending on to the full CPR Committee and the Medical Policy Committee for final approval. Approved protocols are housed in the Clinical Policy and Procedure Manual in ellucid, the online policy/procedure management system

Protocol application:



Protocol Screening
Application.docx

A few examples in ellucid:

[POCT Urinalysis for Patients Being Seen for Eating Disorders in MGHfC Adolescent Medicine Clinic](#)

[Emergency Department Nursing Point-of-Care \(POCT\) Glucose Protocol](#)

[POCT Pregnancy Testing \(Urine\) for Post-Menarchal Female Pediatric Oncology Patients](#)