

Position Statement on Point of Care Testing (POCT)

Position Statement

It is the position of the Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) that point of care (POC) testing be conducted in accordance with regulatory and accreditation requirements to ensure accuracy of test results and patient safety.

Information

- In hospitals, laboratories have oversight over all point of care testing as dictated by regulations and accreditation standards, regardless of where the testing is performed.¹
- Point of care testing performed outside of laboratories and hospitals (i.e., in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, etc.) can accelerate patient care for Ontarians, but proper oversight, quality management, and accreditation standards must be in place to ensure accurate test results.²

The MLPAO supports the adherence to rigorous standards for regulation and accreditation for point of care testing, regardless of the location where the testing is performed, to provide the public with assurance of high quality, accurate test results for patient safety.

¹ Accreditation Canada Diagnostics Medical Laboratory Accreditation Requirements, version 9, June 2023, Requirement I.A.5

² Point-of-Care Testing: A position statement from the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists; Clinical Biochemistry 53 (2018) 156-159.