General Information

Point of care testing (POCT) is available in approved inpatient units and outpatient clinics in order to provide rapid test results in support of patient care. All POCT must be approved by the Point of Care Department, which maintains oversight of all POCT within the St. Elizabeth Healthcare system. Each POCT site is audited monthly for compliance with relevant policies and procedures. Sites found to be repeatedly out of compliance may have their privileges suspended until appropriate steps are taken to insure consistent compliance.

POINT OF CARE Testing Policies/Procedures ARE LOCATED ON COMPLIANCE 360(can be accessed through the Intranet, Compliance 360, Clinical Laboratory – SEH, Point of Care System(POC)

Applying for POCT Privileges

New sites that wish to perform POCT or requests for new POCT from existing sites must be made in writing to the POC Department. The department will evaluate the request and determine if the request will be approved. If testing involves a new analyte, a validation will need to be performed. No site may initiate POCT or expand their menu of tests without approval of the committee.

Who Can Perform Testing

Only inpatient units and outpatient clinics that have obtained approval from the POC Department can perform testing.

In the inpatient setting, only licensed individuals who have been properly trained and demonstrated competency may perform POCT. Physicians may perform POCT utilizing visual endpoint tests without formal competency assessment, provided that each test is covered as part of the physician's medical staff privileging and credentialing process.

In the outpatient clinics, non-licensed personnel may perform POCT classified as waived by the FDA provided they have received training and demonstrated annual competency for each test they perform. Non-licensed personnel may not perform non-waived testing.

Proficiency Testing

Each location performing POCT classified by the FDA as "moderately complex" must successfully participate in proficiency testing (PT) for each such test. Sites that demonstrate unsuccessful PT performance may lose authorization to perform the test until they demonstrate successful remediation.