



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

# Position Statement

## Point-of-care Diagnostic Tests Exempt from DAP Accreditation

### DETAILS

**Department/program:** Diagnostic Accreditation Program

**Date:** February 19, 2020

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### PURPOSE

Position statements from the College provide background information and express or clarify the College's intent on a particular matter. They are intended as guidance for stakeholders in areas where events are evolving or changing, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, the implementation of a guideline or standard may not be necessary, another credible body (for example, a professional association) has already established guidelines or standards or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses the list of point-of-care diagnostic tests that do not require accreditation by the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) as approved by the DAP Committee and the Board as per section 5-26(2) of the College Bylaws.

### BACKGROUND

Community-based physician offices and clinics provide point-of-care diagnostic tests for patients in the provision of their care without the need for the patient to go to a hospital or outpatient facility laboratory for the diagnostic services. The results from the diagnostic tests guide the physicians in the course of treatment of the patient. The approved list of diagnostic tests for physician clinics and offices was developed through consensus of representatives from the community including medical laboratory technologists, pathologists, and registrants of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.

### POSITION

In BC, a physician may perform select point-of-care diagnostic tests, without the need for accreditation, as approved by the DAP Committee and the Board, providing that the physician only performs the diagnostic tests in the course of treating their own patients or in the course of treating a patient who has been referred to them by another physician. Point-of-care diagnostic tests performed in a physician's office may be performed by the ordering physician or delegated to other health-care

providers under the direction of the ordering physician, provided the delegate(s) have received adequate training on the testing

The DAP Committee and the Board have limited the approved diagnostic tests to those that are simple point-of-care procedures that require minimal technology, training, and have a low rate of erroneous results. In addition, for any device used for the POCT, it is the responsibility of the user to be knowledgeable and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) for maintenance of the device, reprocessing requirements and to discard any components of the device that are considered single use disposable. The approved diagnostic tests are:

- blood glucose by a semi-quantitative method or by a device specific to glucose monitoring
- blood ketone measurement
- examination for cutaneous fungus by KOH preparation
- examination for trichomonas
- examination for yeast
- hemoglobin
- INR by a device specific to INR monitoring
- HIV 1/2 antibody by rapid immunoassay
- pregnancy test by immunologic-urine
- rupture of fetal membrane/ROM by point-of-care immunoassay
- semen examination for the presence of sperm
- urinalysis by dipstick
- urinalysis by microscopy performed by nephrologists
- urine drug screen by point-of-care immunoassay
- venipuncture

Point-of-care testing is to be performed at the discretion of the physician. Significant clinical decisions made on the basis of the POCT results may require confirmation testing performed at a DAP-accredited clinical laboratory.

## REFERENCES

Section 5-26(2) of the College Bylaws

## CONTACT

For further information, please contact the director, accreditation programs.