

Point of Care Testing Notice

PoCT Operator Competency Program – May 2019

Who is this alert notice for?

All NSW Health Point of Care (PoCT) clinical device Operators, Superusers and Pathology staff.

What is changing?

All Operators of PoCT devices under the NSW Health Pathology PoCT Service are assigned non-expiring access to any device they are trained to use.

Continued access is dependent on the PoCT Operator maintaining a high standard of competency on that device.

Acceptable competency is determined by ongoing PoCT Operator monthly and annual device error assessments.

Since **February 2018**, the monthly PoCT Operator performance assessment protocols have been developed and trialed successfully.

In **May 2019**, the first annual PoCT Operator performance assessment will be trialed.

What happens if an Operator's annual performance is below the acceptable standard?

Automatic annual re-accreditation is achieved by satisfying set performance criteria built around sufficient device usage and device or location-specific testing error rates.

PoCT Operators not satisfying the annual performance criteria will be notified by their local PoCT Coordinator or SuperUser to attend targeted re-training to have their device access reinstated.

Any PoCT Operator not attending their targeted re-training by **30th June** will have their device access removed. Reinstating access after this point will require full face-to-face training from their local accredited Pathology lab, SuperUser, device vendor or PoCT coordinator.

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact your local PoCT Coordinator or NSW Health Pathology laboratory.

Please place this notice in a prominent position near your Point of Care device.

Andrew Sargeant – Director Point of Care Testing