



POINT OF CARE TESTING AND CLIENT IDENTIFICATION

All health care providers are **required** to confirm a patient, client, or resident's identity by checking two patient, client, or resident identifiers prior to providing care and/or services, including **point-of-care testing (POCT)**. Correctly identifying a patient, client, or resident is essential for safe care and is a Required Organizational Practice (ROP), Accreditation Canada Standard, and a requirement in Health PEI's (HPEI) Client Identification Policy

POCT is medical diagnostic testing performed by trained POC operators outside the clinical laboratory near to where the patient is receiving care and allows for immediate decisions to be made in the clinical management of the patient. POC devices used across HPEI facilities include Glucose/Ketone meters, INR meters, Hemoglobin analyzers, Lactate meters, Urinalysis/hCG analyzers, WBC/ANC Analyzers, A₁C Analyzers and COVID-19 Analyzers.

Between January 2024 and December 2024 there were 582 misidentified POCT client incidents. Incident types include:

- ✓ Invalid/Incorrect MRN/PHN
- ✓ ID/Specimen Mismatch
- ✓ Documentation Issue
- ✓ Deviation from Standard Operating Procedure

As per Accreditation Canada Standards, all POC results must be linked to a patient or client.

Client Identification Improvements Include:

- ✓ Barcoded armbands implemented in all Acute Care facilities
- ✓ Barcode registration labels implemented in all LTC (Long Term Care) and Primary Care facilities
- ✓ All POCT devices are equipped with barcode scanners to reduce the risk of manual entry errors
- ✓ 'Non-Patient and John Doe' forms developed for use in situations where immediate identification cannot be obtained.
- ✓ ID errors are reviewed to focus on locations with a high frequency of incidents to determine what changes and supports are required for improvement

It is the **POCT operators' responsibility** to correctly identify clients prior to performing POCT. Non-compliance with the Client Identification Policy may result in the operator's access to POC devices being revoked.

Your POC team is here to help: **Holly Brasky**, POC Coordinator hjbrasky@ihis.org or **Maria MacDougall**, POC MLT II mariamacdougall@ihis.org