Did You Know?

Health PEI

Point-of-Care Testing and Positive Patient Identification

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

What is Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)?

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

Between January 2021 and December 2021 there were 734 misidentified POCT client incidents.

The types of POCT misidentification incidents 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/client/resident.

Positive Patient Identification improvements include:

➢ 'Non-Patient and John Doe' forms for use in situations where immediate identification cannot be obtained.

➢ Review of ID errors to focus on locations with a high frequency to determine what changes and supports are required for improvement.

➢ 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 equipped with barcode scanners to reduce the risk of manual entry errors.

What does this mean for POCT operators?

It is the POCT operators' responsibility to correctly identify clients prior to performing POCT. Non-compliance with the Positive Patient Identification policy may result in the operator's access to POC devices being revoked. Operators can reach out to us with any questions, concerns or suggestions!

For more information, please contact Maria MacDougall – POC MLT II
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