
**Point-of-care testing (POCT) —
Requirements for quality and
competence**

*Examens de biologie médicale délocalisée (EBMD) — Exigences
concernant la qualité et la compétence*

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 212, *Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems*.

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 22870:2006), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

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- inclusion of cross-references to the applicable clauses in ISO 15189:2012.

Introduction

Traditional examinations of a patient's body fluids, excreta and tissues are carried out generally in the controlled and regulated environment of a recognized medical laboratory. The introduction of quality management systems and accreditation of these laboratories are gaining increasing interest.

Advances in technology have resulted in compact, easy-to-use *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) medical devices that make it possible to carry out some examinations at, or close to, the location of the patient. Point-of-care/near-patient testing may benefit the patient as well as healthcare facilities.

Risk to the patient and to the facility can be managed by a well-designed, fully implemented quality management system that facilitates

- evaluation of new or alternative POCT instruments and systems,
- evaluation and approval of end-user proposals and protocols,
- purchase, installation and maintenance of equipment,
- maintenance of consumable supplies and reagents,
- training, certification and recertification of POCT system operators, and
- quality control and quality assurance.

Bodies that recognize the competence of POCT facilities may use this document as the basis for their activities. If a healthcare facility seeks accreditation for a part or all of its activities, it should select an accreditation body that operates in a manner which takes into account the special requirements of POCT.

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