



# Essentials of POCT a Point-of-Care Testing Short Course

Designed and Developed by POC Africa

Powered by **LabVine**

- ✓ Blended Learning
- ✓ 1.5-hour weekly virtual facilitation over 4 weeks
- ✓ 8 Modules
- ✓ 22 CPDs



Science | Technology | People

## BACKGROUND OF POCT

Traditionally, laboratory and diagnostic investigations are performed at laboratories using complex equipment by highly trained professionals. This results in highly accurate results. However, transporting samples and patients to these sites can significantly increase the turnaround time, leading to a delay in diagnosis and treatment.

Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) or Near Patient Testing (NPT) is defined as a laboratory investigation that can be performed at the point at which a patient enters the healthcare system or at the time of consultation. This allows healthcare practitioners to obtain the results timeously, and patients can receive therapy without any delay. The benefits of performing the test at the bedside or in a clinic are significant. However, concerns have been raised that those individuals performing these tests are often not sufficiently trained. This could lead to inaccurate results being reported and patient care being compromised. As the use of these point-of-care tests and instruments increases, the need to develop a training course is becoming increasingly important.

Formal and academic training courses for Point-of-Care Testing Operators are generally lacking, and these are critically important, given the changing healthcare landscape and shift to personalized medicine and self-testing, as well as the need to ensure that the test results are reliable and accurate and meet accreditation standards.

Therefore, this short course aims to provide a basic introduction for practitioners currently employed to manage POCT services or perform these tests for infectious and non-infectious diseases.

Some of the tests utilized for non-infectious diseases are: Cardiac Markers, Sepsis Markers, Full Blood Count, Haemoglobin, Blood Glucose, Cholesterol, Blood Gases, Pregnancy tests, Urine Dipstick, CRP, INR, Neonatal Bilirubin, and many more.

In South Africa, significant improvements to healthcare have been seen where POCT has been used in screening for HIV, Malaria, Influenza A and B, Strep A, COVID-19, STDs, and Tuberculosis, to name a few. There are many more point-of-care tests, but the aforementioned are significant for Communicable Diseases.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Course is designed to advance the skills, knowledge, and competencies of healthcare professionals who utilize and/or manage point-of-care testing or professionals who wish to gain higher-level, specialist knowledge about POCT, thereby enabling improved clinical outcomes with faster, accurate test results.

To provide Healthcare Providers with a framework to refer to when planning and implementing a POCT service based on clinical needs and appropriateness. Auditors of POCT services will also gain knowledge and skills when attending this course.

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## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✔ Nurses –General and Specialised / Nursing Assistants
- ✔ Primary Healthcare Clinic Staff
- ✔ Community Healthcare Workers
- ✔ Laboratory Staff
- ✔ Phlebotomists
- ✔ Hospital Physicians / Intensivists
- ✔ General Practitioners and their staff
- ✔ ER Staff / EMS staff, especially EMTs
- ✔ Ambulance Staff
- ✔ POCT Coordinators and Managers
- ✔ Regulatory Body Auditors
- ✔ Pharmacy Staff
- ✔ Occupational Health Staff

## COURSE CONTENT

The Essentials for POCT course covers the following topics:

1. Introduction and Background to POCT
  2. Regulatory Requirements
  3. Development of a QMS
  4. Accreditation
  5. POCT Devices – Selection, Validation & Verification, Principles of Measurement, and Analytical Considerations
  6. Development of a Service Need, Business Plan, and Implementation of Service
  7. Connectivity and Data Management
  8. Training and Competency
  9. Role of Communication in a POCT Program and Tools for Effective Coordination
  10. Administration, Document Control, Record Keeping, and H&S in POCT
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## COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this POCT short course, successful participants are expected to:

- ✔ Have the required knowledge, skills, and competency to be a User, Coordinator, or Manager of a POCT site and/or program.
- ✔ Understand the key concepts and practices of POCT.
- ✔ Have a working knowledge of the regulatory requirements and accreditation standards and to be able to apply this in the successful operation of a POCT site and/or program.
- ✔ Have the required skills and information to develop and start a POCT program.
- ✔ Be able to promote standardized practices in POCT, leading to improved quality of results, shortened result turnaround times, and improved patient outcomes.

## COURSE DESIGN

The course comprises 8 modules covering the fundamentals and regulatory requirements of POCT as per ISO 15189 (2022) and global best practices.

All 8 modules are offered online, and the course must be completed within 4 weeks. An extra week can be allowed for any valid issues beyond the registrant's control.

Delivery includes a weekly 1.5-hour virtual meeting with the instructor for the registrants to address any queries about the contents and for the instructor to discuss real-world applications. The instructor will be available for email queries and support outside the weekly virtual sessions.

Participants will do an online assessment after completing each module. A Certificate of Competence as a POCT Professional will be issued by LabVine to each participant after successfully completing the course and online assessments.

The course is CPD Accredited by the Society of Medical Laboratory Technology of South Africa (SMLTSA), and 22 CPD points will be assigned to delegates for full attendance, completion, and passing of the assessments.



## COURSE DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED BY



**Ms. Theresa (Terry) van Jaarsveld**

*Medical Laboratory Technologist (HPCSA):  
NHD Clinical Pathology, Haematology Specials.*

Owner of POC Africa – online training and consulting (also face-to-face/onsite) in all POCT training and consultancy requirements, Pre-analytics and Quality Assurance in POCT.

POCT Specialist; Accreditation, QA, Pre-Analytical and Phlebotomy Specialist. Laboratory Management experience >40 years; Training of Healthcare workers and Nursing staff in Pre-analytics and POCT experience >30 years.

Worked Internationally from 2002 – 2017 with the primary focus of interest in POCT, Pre-Analytics, Phlebotomy and Laboratory Management.

Developed and successfully Implemented comprehensive POCT services in 3 large hospitals in the Middle East.

Pre 2002 involved in laboratory management and POCT in Cape Town.

Clinical Practice Coordinator at CPUT Biomedical Science Department from 2019 to 2022.

Executive Council member for the Society for Medical Laboratory Technology in South Africa.

Content provider for LabVine.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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