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JOB AIDE

POCT- POINT OF CARE TESTING

What is POCT? Point of Care Testing is testing that is performed at the patient bedside or at the time of collection. Think of it as laboratory testing performed outside of the laboratory setting at the patient.

Why is this important for me to know? I collect the specimens, not test them!

In some client settings it is permissible in a controlled environment, to have a Collector collect the specimen and test it as well as read the results of the testing.

What do you mean a “controlled environment?”

In order for a Collector to be involved with POC testing, the client must specifically request the Collector’s involvement either through their sales representative or Collections leadership.

Once the request has been made, if approved, the Collector must be trained on the POC testing processes and training documentation must be kept on file with Human Resources and with the Laboratory Manager overseeing POC testing for the Laboratory.

All Helix created forms used for recording testing results and/or QC results must be placed on a Helix approved document that is in document controlled format. No other forms should be used.

POC testing is considered “low complexity” testing, meaning it requires very little training and follow up to be considered compliant in the eyes of our laboratory accrediting agencies.

These same agencies that require the training also require an annual competency to be performed as well as quality controls be implemented and tracked per manufacturer’s instructions.

All of these, training, competency and quality control must be documented in a timely manner in order to allow the Collector to continue the POC testing at their site.

Each site that performs POC testing must also register for and maintain an active CLIA testing Certificate of Waiver, obtained by the Helix Compliance Department.

Each site performing approved POC testing must also track the numbers of POC tests and submit those to the Helix Compliance department monthly.

Failure to comply with any of the above jeopardize Helix's ability to continue to offer the POC services to the client.

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Examples of POC testing include but are not limited to:

- Rapid Covid Antigen Testing
- Urine Drug testing Dips and resulting
- Urine Pregnancy Dips and resulting
- Glucose testing using an electronic meter
- FERN testing, glass slide in OBGYN office
- Any operation of an electronic testing device, meter or other instrument in the provider office
- Any operation that includes a manual dip, read or action involving processing the specimen into a laboratory result in the provider office

Any actions that result in a Collector performing ANY aspect of laboratory testing are considered to be POC testing.

All POC testing MUST be reported to the Helix Compliance department ASAP.

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Reviewed and approved by: Wendy Dalton

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