

**Certificate of Expert Practice (CEP) in Point of Care Testing (POCT)**

The CEP in Point Of Care Testing consists of six two-week modules. It is assessed through the submission of two assessment pieces (one at the mid-point of the course and one at the end of the course) and an on-line examination the pass mark for which is 65%.

**Modules**

In brief the six modules and their learning outcomes are as follows:

**Module 1 – An Introduction to POCT**

 At the end of this module you will be:

* able to define what POCT is and understand the challenges of determining what is a POC Test
* aware of the history of POCT from a technological and governance perspective
* able to describe how quality management and governance principles apply to POCT
* describe who performs POCT; Where POCT is performed and what parameters are commonly analysed
* describe the relationships that influence the delivery of a POCT service

**Module 2 – Quality and Accreditation in POCT**

At the end of this module you will:

* be aware of and understand integrated governance in the provision of a POCT service
* understand the importance of a quality management system (QMS) in the delivery of a POCT service
* understand the importance of internal quality control (IQC) and external quality assessment (EQA) in POCT, and the difference between laboratory and POCT IQC
* understand UKAS Accreditation of POCT services
* be aware of the importance of communication with users
* understand that collaborative working in POCT ensures the success of the POCT service

**Module 3 – Principles of Measurement and Analytical Considerations in POCT**

At the end of this module you will be able to:

* state the core technologies used within POCT
* give examples of techniques and how they differ from the laboratory
* demonstrate knowledge of key contra-indications and interferences
* demonstrate the key sample types along with how sensitivity and linearity interplay in terms of assay selection
* identify the main factors that impact the sample pathway and the importance of user interactions
* identify key factors that need to be considered when looking at the patient role within POCT and how POCT has a role within Pathology

**Module 4 – Development of a Service Need**

At the end of this module you will be:

* aware of the importance of establishing the clinical need for a new POCT service
* able to put together a business case for a new POCT service
* familiar with the procurement process for POCT devices
* aware of the factors for consideration when selecting POCT devices
* familiar with the verification process for POCT devices
* able to develop an implementation strategy for POCT services

**Module 5 – Connectivity and Data Management in POCT**

At the end of this module you will:

* appreciate the value of electronically connected POCT devices in the provision of an effective POCT service
* understand the challenges faced when managing a POCT service with limited connectivity and the whole service benefits of a central data management system
* identify ways in which connectivity can help the POCT service demonstrate compliance with ISO standards and support initial and on-going attainment of UKAS accreditation for the POCT service
* be aware of the variation in commercial middleware platforms available and the difficulties faced when developing a local connectivity solution
* appreciate the complexities of achieving full end to end connectivity

**Module 6 – Training in POCT**

At the end of this module you will be able to:

* demonstrate knowledge of key ISO requirements for training
* write and deliver a training plan
* identify the requirements for Practical training sessions
* identify the requirements for re-training and recertification of POCT users