

Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Services Suggested Fee Guide

Description

The purpose of point-of-care testing (POCT) is to assist individuals with the management of their medication(s) to treat chronic disease.

In general, POCT services should include:

- Ensuring the specific point-of-care test is appropriate for the patient
- Explaining how the test works
- Obtaining informed consent from the patient
- Conducting POCT
- Interpretation of the test results by a Part A pharmacist
- Communication of the results and counselling of the patient and/or agent
- Documentation and communication of the results to the patient's care team

Examples of what is **NOT** included in this service:

- Medication Review
- Care Plan Preparation and Follow-Up
- Patient Consultation and Education Services
- Prescription adaptation and/or renewal services

(Note: Refer to [OPA's Suggested Fee Guide for Uninsured Clinical and Professional Pharmacy Services](#) for descriptions and more information about the above.)

Suggested Fee

\$35+

\$35 Professional Service Fee + cost of materials (e.g., testing cartridges, ancillary supplies, etc.)

Pharmacists are encouraged to determine if additional services such as a publicly funded Pharmaceutical Opinion Program recommendation or MedsCheck review, or other uninsured services would be appropriate for the patient.

Rationale

Suggested fee is in alignment with remuneration provided for other publicly funded pharmacy testing services in Ontario as well as insured and uninsured services in other provincial jurisdictions.

The **technical components** of performing the point-of-care test, e.g., specimen collection, performing the test on the POCT device, etc. can be performed by Part A pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, registered pharmacy students, or interns and is estimated to require approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The **clinical components** of performing the point-of-care test, e.g., assessing to see if a test would be clinically appropriate for the patient, interpreting and communicating the test result, etc. must be performed by a Part A pharmacist and should require approximately 15 minutes to complete. (As per O. Reg. 202/94 under the *Pharmacy Act, 1991*, a Part A pharmacist is responsible for interpreting the results of a point-of-care test and making any professional decision arising from those results.)

Additional Resources

Legislative Resources:

- [O. Reg. 202/94 under the Pharmacy Act, 1991](#)
- [O. Reg. 45/22 under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act](#)

Other POCT Resources:

- [HbA1C/Glucose Point-of-Care Testing Clinical Tool](#)
- [Lipids Point-of-Care Testing Clinical Tool](#)
- [PT/INR Point-of-Care Testing Clinical Tool](#)
- [Point-of-Care Testing References Chart](#)
- [Point of Care Tests](#) (Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP))

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Resources:

- [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition](#) (Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC))
- [Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices in All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition](#) (Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC))
- [Best Practices for Hand Hygiene in All Health Care Settings, 4th edition](#) (Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC))
- [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition](#) (Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC))
- [Patient Safety and Infection Prevention and Control](#) (Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP))

DISCLAIMER: The Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) provides this material to pharmacy professionals for informational purposes only and does not replace professional judgement and responsibilities. It is intended to be a guide to assist pharmacy professionals in determining a fair value for point-of-care testing services provided to patients and includes a suggested rate and associated rationale; however, pharmacy professionals may decide to charge whatever they deem to be fair, reasonable and appropriate in their individual settings. Pharmacy professionals are encouraged to use the guide while working individually with patients to design a program or selection of pharmacy services that best meets their needs, and to help ensure fair compensation for the services provided. This guide is provided without warranty of any kind by OPA and OPA assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies therein. The decision for use and application of this document is the responsibility of the user. OPA assumes no liability for such use and application or any resulting outcomes. It is the responsibility of the pharmacy professional to use professional judgment in evaluating this material in light of any relevant clinical or situational data. It is intended to supplement materials provided by regulatory authorities, and should there be any discrepancies, municipal, provincial, and federal laws, policies and guidelines shall prevail. This information is up to date as at the date of publication.