PoCT Notice
Alert for Non-Approved Specimens

Advice for Non-Approved Specimens

Do not test the following **non-approved pathology specimen types** on any PoCT device:

- Intraosseous blood**
- All Body cavity fluids – peritoneal, synovial, pleural fluids
- Wound or joint aspirates
- Urines (except on urinalysis PoCT devices)

Do not test the following **non-approved pathology specimen type** using i-STAT CHEM8+ cartridge:

- Capillary whole blood, i.e. blood from skin puncture of finger or heel.

If in doubt please contact your local PoCT Hub Coordinator or pathology laboratory for advice.

****Please note** that the Adult and Paediatric Sepsis pathways refer to intraosseous access to be considered for iv cannulation and fluid resuscitation only.

Why can't we use them?

Non-approved patient specimens must not be used when performing Point of Care pathology tests. Results from these specimens do not have validated reference ranges and can affect the ongoing performance of the PoCT device.

What's the impact?

The potential for misinterpretation of test results from non-approved specimens is a **significant clinical quality and patient safety issue.** This may result in incorrect patient diagnosis and treatment. The ongoing performance of the PoCT device may also be affected by residues left within the device after testing.

What does this mean for me or my hospital / service?

If you proceed to analyse a non-approved pathology specimen type (as outlined above), you are operating in contravention of NSW Health Policy. This means:

- you are solely responsible for your actions and all decisions that flow from your actions
- you may have committed a 'wrongful act' and your indemnity cover may be withdrawn by Treasury Managed Fund (TMF). Any legal costs incurred or amount of damages awarded (or compensation determined) may be your responsibility as well. Please see Treasury Managed Fund Statement of Cover including the Scheme Structure for more details on your TMF cover.

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact your local PoCT Coordinator or Pathology Laboratory.

Place this notice in a prominent position near your Point of Care device so users are aware of the advice and implications.