

## POSTER SYMPOSIUM – P18

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# The Role of Point of Care Testing (POCT) Section at Clinical Laboratory Services, Brunei Darussalam

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### INTRODUCTION

Point of Care Testing, which is also known as bedside testing, is a clinical laboratory test in the clinic or intensive care unit where patient is receiving care, rather than at the central or main laboratory. It is designed to provide rapid test results, thus shortening turnaround time. Examples of POCT offered are: urinalysis, pregnancy test, glucose test using glucometer, *Helicobacter pylori* breath test, ketone test and blood gas analysis. Where these POCT have been around in Brunei government hospitals and health clinics, the quality management system to ensure accurate and reliable test results produced by operators is not monitored by the laboratory, hence impacting doctor's clinical decision and patient's safety.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective is to implement POCT quality assurance program in Brunei Darussalam in a stage by stage manner for health centres and hospitals in Brunei, with the establishment of POCT Section under Clinical Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Due to Joint Commission International requirement of POCT, the POCT committee is formed, which later came to the decision of creating a new section called POCT. The policy on POCT quality assurance and procedures on specific tests are created, which aid the performing facilities to make their own programs and procedures. With these policies and procedures, POCT section scope of work is implemented.

### RESULTS

POCT quality assurance program has been fully implemented and established in Pengkalan Batu Health Centre. Other government hospitals and health centres will soon be included for the implementation of the POCT program.

### CONCLUSION

POCT program is an essential part of patient's safety to ensure the results produced are accurate and reliable.

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