

AACC and the AACC CPOCT present



POINT-OF-CARE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**An online distance learning program
for Point-of-Care specialists**



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INTRODUCTION

Given the dramatic increase in near patient testing today, the role of the point-of-care specialist in ensuring quality management of testing outside the laboratory is increasingly critical to patient care. The POC specialist interacts with clinicians, nurses, laboratorians, and other health care providers to ensure that existing clinical laboratory regulations and quality standards are applied systematically throughout the organization. Through detailed knowledge of instrumentation, information technology, administration, regulations, policies and procedures, education and training, quality management, and communication, the point-of-care specialist helps reduce medical errors and contributes to cost-effective medical care.

The AACC Critical and Point-of-Care Testing Division has developed this comprehensive online distance learning program to prepare point-of-care specialists for their critical role and to promote standardized best practices in near patient testing.

Here's what you can expect from participation in the program:

- Receive recognition for your on-the-job training
- Develop proficiency in new areas
- Learn about best practices and how to implement them in your institution
- Become part of a network of leaders in the field
- Leverage your knowledge for new career opportunities
- Receive quality education from POC experts
- Get cost-effective continuing education credit

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Designed for working professionals, this certificate program for point-of-care specialists is a one-of-a-kind program that provides a comprehensive curriculum for successful practice in U.S.-based hospital, clinic, and doctor's office point-of-care testing. It is a high-quality professional development program with rich content that will deepen and broaden the knowledge and skills of practicing POC specialists and validate the experience they bring to the job.

The curriculum is scientifically sound and reflects current recommended practice. The faculty consists of dedicated laboratory professionals who are recognized experts in the field with firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by point-of-care specialists. The online format is specifically structured to be accessible, affordable, and manageable. No other program offers

point-of-care specialists the comprehensive scope or level of expertise that this program provides.

By applying best practices and providing leadership in point-of-care testing, graduates of the certificate program contribute to improved patient care and advancement of the field.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The POC Specialist Certificate Program is an online distance learning program that documents the knowledge and skills necessary for successful practice as a POC specialist and recognizes those individuals who demonstrate mastery of the content. The program is composed of eight courses which can be completed online in 1-2 hours each. Each course contains a lecture, required reading, and self-assessment and may include case studies, practical exercises, glossary, and resource materials. There are opportunities for interaction with faculty and other participants using the program's dedicated listserv. You can earn continuing education credit for each course completed.

To receive the POC specialist certificate, you must successfully complete all eight courses and pass a comprehensive, multiple-choice examination within a period of 12 consecutive months. After completing the coursework, you may apply for the online comprehensive examination by e-mailing the course administrator.

POC specialist certificates are awarded annually during the AACC Annual Meeting and graduates of the program are listed in the POC specialist register located on the CPOCT Division website.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Internet Access and AdobeFlash Player 9.0: You must have Internet access and Internet browser software with Adobe Flash Player version 9.0 or higher installed on your computer to view the e-learning materials in this course. You may test your browser or update your browser software at the following link: <http://www.macromedia.com/software/flash/about/>. Check our website for updated technical requirements.

Audio Speakers: You will need speakers attached to your computer to hear the audio files associated with some of the course materials.

Screen resolution: For best viewing, your screen resolution should be 1024 x 768 or higher.

“Point-of-care testing is expanding at our facility, and that means the various centers are doing things in different ways. This kind of program will help me defend the use of standard procedures throughout the system.”

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

POC Certificate Program: September 1, 2008–August 31, 2009
For individuals who want to earn the Point-of-Care Specialist certificate. Eight online courses and a comprehensive multiple-choice examination

Open Enrollment: July 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

Fee: \$225.00 AACC Member; \$450.00 Non-member

Individual Courses: September 1, 2008–August 31, 2009
For individuals who are not interested in obtaining the Point-of-Care Specialist certificate, the 8 online courses may be taken independently and continuing education credit may be earned.

Open Enrollment: July 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

Per-course fee: \$95.00 AACC Member;
\$125.00 Non-member

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Administration: To administer a successful POCT program, the point-of-care specialist must be able to align point-of-care efforts with goals of the healthcare organization. This requires skills in strategic planning, goal setting, supervision, budgeting, and systems design. This course describes how to leverage your organizational and leadership skills for POCT administration.

Communication: Effective communication skills are critical to the success of POC specialists as they interact with clinicians, nurses, laboratorians, and other health care providers. This course discusses verbal and non-verbal communication, describes listening styles and response types, and recommends strategies for interacting successfully with all parties to ensure appropriate patient care.

Connectivity and IT: Integrating a POCT device into a health care system can be challenging. This course focuses on connectivity issues and opportunities associated with POCT device use. It addresses the increased importance of proper patient identification and operator tracking using bar-coded applications and explores the complexities of data flow and how it effects POCT information management.

Education and Training: One of the cornerstones of consistent, accurate, high quality laboratory testing is the prerequisite of appropriate training for all personnel. This course addresses health care regulations for education, training, and competency that affect point-of-care testing. It outlines characteristics that

influence learning and explains principles of effective training. It reviews teaching methods and techniques and provides guidelines for a systematic program of competency assessment.

Instrument Selection and Validation: Today's POCT market offers a wide assortment of methods and technologies for performing tests at the point of care. To ensure appropriate patient care, it is critical that instruments are thoroughly reviewed prior to introducing them into the clinical setting. This course describes classes of POC instruments and outlines criteria for instrument selection and validation.

Policies and Procedures: This course provides information on how to structure procedures in a point-of-care testing program and explains how they relate to the policies and processes set out by the laboratory that governs those procedures. Policies, processes, and procedures provide formal evidence that the POCT program has competent oversight of all administrative and operational systems to ensure consistent, safe, and quality patient testing.

Quality Management: This course describes how to develop a quality plan to ensure that all test results are accurate and medically relevant.

It includes how to ensure correct patient identification, proper specimen collection, specimen labeling, specimen handling, examination/testing process, result interpretation, limitations of procedure, reporting of results, quality control, proficiency testing and accreditation.

Regulations: All laboratory testing, including POC, comes under the scrutiny of regulatory agencies at state and national levels. This course is designed to familiarize the participant with the regulations specifically targeted toward point-of-care testing at a national level. It explains the difference between regulations and guidelines and compares the requirements of the primary agencies in the United States today.

ACCREDITATION

Category 1 ACCENT® credit is offered for each course. See course outline for specific number of credit hours. AACC is an approved provider of continuing education for clinical laboratory scientists in the states of California, Florida, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations and refunds are not available for e-learning courses.

“This program will help standardize the knowledge base and let others know what a huge responsibility this position holds. I think it will give more credibility and recognition to POCCs.”
