

POCT provision for Hampshire NHS Health Checks: HHFT pathology lab support for providers

November 2025

Providers using POCT should do so as per NHS Health Checks [service specification 2019-2026](#) or [service specification 2026-2033](#) as appropriate.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) Public Health currently commissions Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) pathology laboratory to provide specialist support for providers delivering NHS Health Checks using Point of Care Testing (POCT). This is available to all providers in Hampshire, even if HHFT is not your local laboratory. This ensures high-quality NHS Health Checks and aligns with national guidance, which recommends local hospital pathology laboratories play a key role in POCT services. Providers continue to have responsibility for POCT as set out in the service specifications.

Role of HHFT Pathology Team

HHFT will provide expert advice and support to providers using POCT, including:

- Guidance on purchasing POCT devices
- Training for staff on POCT
- Support and advice setting up External Quality Assurance (EQA)
- Interpreting EQA results and advising on remedial action, if required
- Conducting quality assurance assessments
- Support in developing and reviewing POCT Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Note: Providers remain responsible for maintaining POCT quality assurance but can seek advice from HHFT at any stage.

Registration and coordination

- Providers using or planning to use POCT need to inform and receive agreement from HCC Public Health commissioners before setting up POCT for NHS Health Checks.
- Providers will be required to submit quarterly of Internal Quality Control (IQA) and External Quality Assurance (EQA) to the commissioner quarterly.
- Providers should also contact HHFT to:
 - Register or get support to register for external quality assurance (EQA)
 - Register their POCT devices
 - Request support to develop an SOP
 - Submit their SOP for review and sign-off by HHFT before POCT use

Quality Assurance Setup

- Providers must implement robust internal quality control processes, detailed in their SOP and agreed by HHFT.
- Providers must enrol in a nationally accredited EQA programme. HHFT can advise and support on setting this up.

Contact details:

HHFT path lab POCT support: Lucinda Streeter, Point of Care Testing Manager

Lucinda.Streeter@hhft.nhs.uk

Hampshire County Council NHS Health checks contact email address:

HCC.hampshirehealthchecks@nhs.net

Further guidance and information

For the management and use of IVD point of care testing devices:

- Management and use of IVD point of care testing devices (Jan 2021)
[Management and use of IVD point of care test devices.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Point of Care Testing: National Strategic Guidance for at Point of Need Testing](#)

NHS Health Checks guidance

- [service specification 2019-2026](#) or [service specification 2026-2033](#) as appropriate.
- NHS Health Check Programme: Best Practice Guidance (updated March 2020) - [National guidance](#)
- NHS Health Check competence framework (July 2020) - [National guidance](#)