

# Current Clinical Practices and Future Perspectives for Primary Healthcare Use of Point of Care Tests: A Scoping Review

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# Abstract

## *Background*

The current changes in disease patterns and patients' needs require changing the model of care to better suit these needs. Furthermore, challenges facing primary care (i.e., workforce shortage, and universal coverage) should be solved by cost-efficient and effective solutions to ensure sustainability. As a solution, point of care tests are becoming cheaper, smaller in size, and in some circumstances more accurate than a central laboratory. However, further research is required to map the types and the current uses of these tests in primary care.

## *Objective(s)*

The aim of this scoping review is to identify the current POCTs used in primary care, and the conditions for which POCTs found useful in the diagnostic decision.

## *Methods*

The review will follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR), and the JBI methodology for scoping reviews guided by the theoretical framework of Arksey and O'Malley with the updates from Danielle Levac, Heather Colquhoun. Databases that will be searched are MEDLINE (Ovid), CINAHL, Embase, Web of Science, and Cochrane Library. The data will be presented in tables and diagrams in addition to a narrative synthesis of the evidence.

## *Conclusion*

The findings of the review will be important for clinicians and decision makers working in primary care to accommodate the changes in patients' demographics and healthcare needs. In addition, it will provide guidance to create suitable further solutions aimed for patients with time sensitive conditions particularly in rural areas.