



# Point of Care Testing Accreditation

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A world of confidence



# Point of Care Testing Accreditation

Since 1992, Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) had been the leading, reputable and authoritative provider of medical laboratory accreditation, External Quality Assessment (EQA) Scheme accreditation, Point of Care Testing (POCT) accreditation in the UK and overseas.

CPA became a wholly owned subsidiary of the UKAS and as part of a strategy by both companies to contribute to the modernisation of pathology services in the UK, a transition of accreditation for all CPA accredited customers took place from 2014-2018.

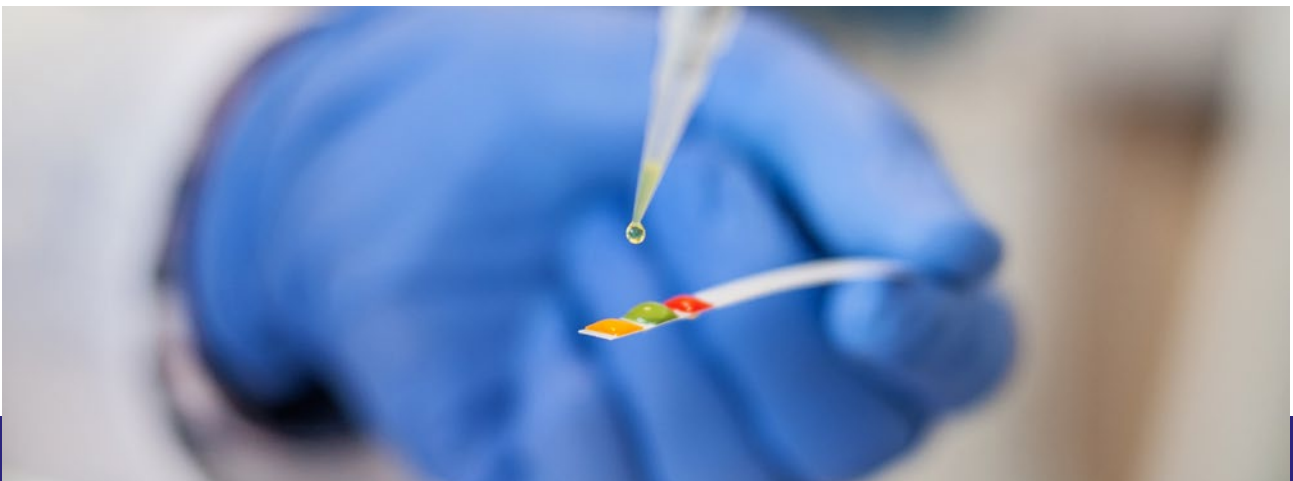
All customers accredited against the CPA POCT Standards undertook a transition to UKAS accreditation to ISO 22870:2016 Point-of-care testing (POCT) – *Requirements for quality and competence*. This transition ran alongside the ISO 15189:2012 transition.

## ISO 22870:2016

**ISO 22870:2016 gives specific requirements applicable to Point of Care Testing when it is carried out in hospitals, clinics and by healthcare organisations providing ambulatory care. Patient self-testing in a home or community setting is excluded, but elements of ISO 22870:2016 can still be applicable.**

ISO 22870:2016 is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO 15189:2012. It is not a standalone standard, but seen as a supportive standard, which means that the POCT provider must also be accredited to ISO 15189:2012.

A provider accredited to ISO 22870:2016 in conjunction with ISO 15189:2012 will be issued with a certificate and schedule providing details of their accredited POCT activities and the locations where the POCT is performed.



## Benefits of ISO 22870:2016

ISO 22870:2016 allows providers to demonstrate that they comply with an internationally agreed standard and therefore provides recognition of their accreditation around the globe.

Raising the quality of care for patients, whilst delivering efficiency and productivity, is a key principle for all Healthcare services. Accreditation is a tool that can be used by Commissioners, patients and providers to support informed and effective decision-making, good governance and public confidence by:

- + Providing independent assurance of quality and safety that supports objectives to deliver better care and value for patients
- + Providing a mechanism for measuring quality improvement and encouraging innovation through continuous service improvements
- + Supporting consistency in the quality of care with reliable outcomes

For providers, accreditation demonstrates that they comply with defined standards and best practice. It provides authoritative assurance of the competence of the service, reduces risk and can act as a leverage for change or service improvement.





## Applying for POCT Accreditation

If you are a new applicant and wish to apply for ISO 15189:2012 and also are considering accreditation for your POCT service, it may be possible to combine your application, which may deliver both time and cost savings.

If you would prefer to wait until your laboratory has been granted accreditation to ISO 15189:2012 or you already have that, POCT accreditation can be added later through an Extension to Scope process.

Whenever you decide to proceed with POCT accreditation, please discuss this with your UKAS Assessment Manager, certainly with the imminent revision of ISO 15189 and inclusion of POCT within the new document.

It is advantageous for laboratories to consider a UKAS POCT pre-assessment visit.

This reduces risk and paves the way for a smoother initial assessment. The pre-assessment visit highlights areas where there is conformance with ISO 22870:2016 and also, areas where further improvement and development is required prior to formal assessment.

“ ...accreditation schemes are so important Independent assessment provides an objective view of what is being delivered and the standards and approach of the process itself do an enormous amount to embed a quality culture. ”

**Professor Dame Sue Hill OBE PhD DSC  
CBiol FRSB Hon FRCP Hon FRCPath  
Chief Scientific Officer, NHS England**

### Further information:

If you have any questions about POCT accreditation, please contact the UKAS Medical Laboratories Team: please call +44 (0) 1784 429000 or email [MedLabsCustomerService@ukas.com](mailto:MedLabsCustomerService@ukas.com)

## Get in touch

sales@ukas.com  
+44 (0) 1784 429000  
[ukas.com](https://www.ukas.com)

