

Organisation and quality monitoring for point-of-care testing (POCT) in Belgium: proposal for an expansion of the legal framework for POCT into primary health care

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Published online: 06 Jan 2021

ACTA CLINICA BELGICA 2021, AHEAD-OF-PRINT, 1-8
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17843286.2020.1868906>

At present in Belgium there is no legal framework for POCT performed outside the hospital, which encompasses: reimbursement, quality monitoring or price charged to the patient.

The authors propose to only reimburse POCT that are done in collaboration with the clinical laboratories, who are the experts in diagnostic testing and can provide the oversight that is necessary. The authors discuss the hurdles and challenges for Point of Care Testing to be used outside of the hospital and how these hurdles can be overcome. They propose that POCT outside the hospitals should only be reimbursed if testing takes place within a legal framework that requires collaboration with a clinical laboratory. This way the investment will be offset by the health benefits.

To achieve the above proposal there are several steps prioritized:

1. Amendment of the decree on certification: the same organisation and collaboration is proposed for POCT outside the hospitals as within the hospitals.
2. Introduction of a separate reimbursement category for POCT
3. Introduction of reimbursement for a small range of POCT (CRP, Infectious Diseases, Glucose)
4. Establishment of a POCT advisory council, which would be multidisciplinary and focus on which tests would be advised to be reimbursed both in general and in primary care.

Although this paper is focused on the current situation in the Belgian market, the information and advice can be translated to many different countries around the world that might face similar challenges.

Link to article:

[Link](#)