Future of POCT
Future Directions for POCT

- POCT growing at a rapid pace
- Test menu expanding
- New technologies include:
  - In vivo and ex vivo monitoring
  - Minimally invasive techniques (transcutaneous measurements)
  - Nanotechnology
  - Noninvasive methods (reverse iontophoresis, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, near-infrared spectroscopy, optical imaging)
Challenges

For manufacturers:
- improve quality
- consistency of test strip/cartridge manufacturing
- redesign strips/cartridges to minimize interferences and extend shelf life
Challenges

For Laboratorians:
- Educate clinicians who use POCT about
  Limitations of devices/methods
  Interpretation
  Reliability of POCT results
References

Laboratory Medicine Colleagues

Websites
- aacc.org (POCT Division, POCT Listserve)
- labtestsonline.org
- Manufacturers

Journals and Other Publications
- Point of Care: The Journal of Near-Patient Testing and Technology
- Clinical Chemistry
- CLSI Guidelines
Summary

- Growth in POCT and applications of POCT
- Includes inpatient and outpatient settings
- Testing performed by wide range of health professionals and patients
- Growing menu of tests and clinical applications
- Understanding limits of tests and appropriate patient population setting important for testing process and interpretation of results
- Guidelines valuable source of information and should be implemented
- New applications and technologies pose both challenges and opportunities