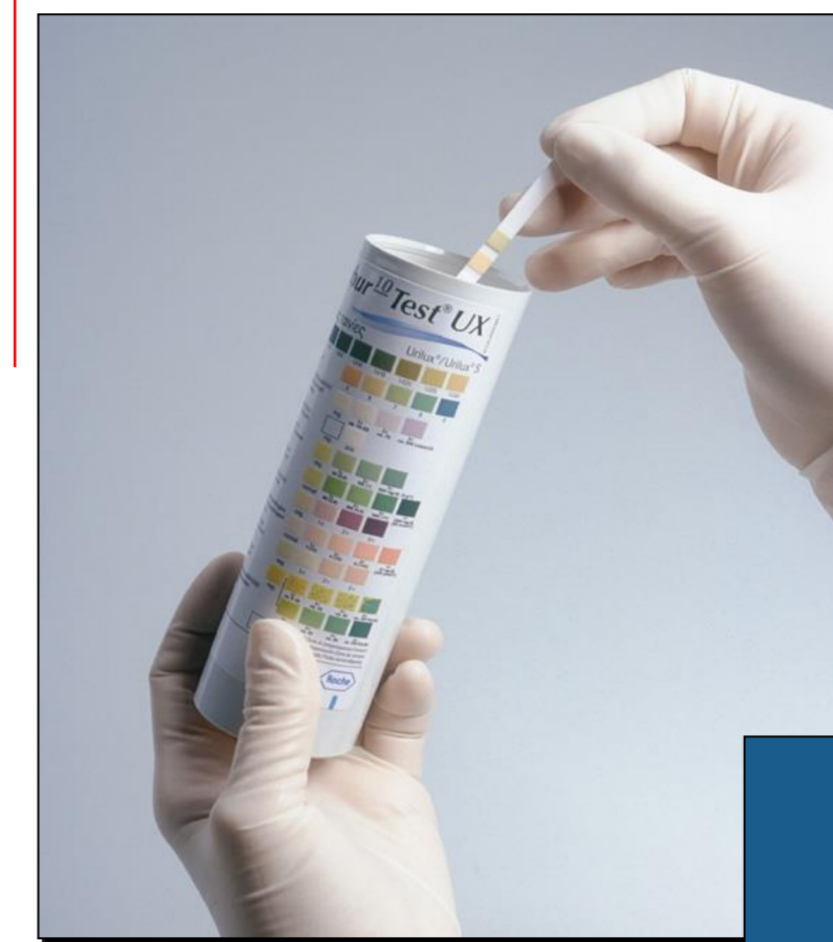
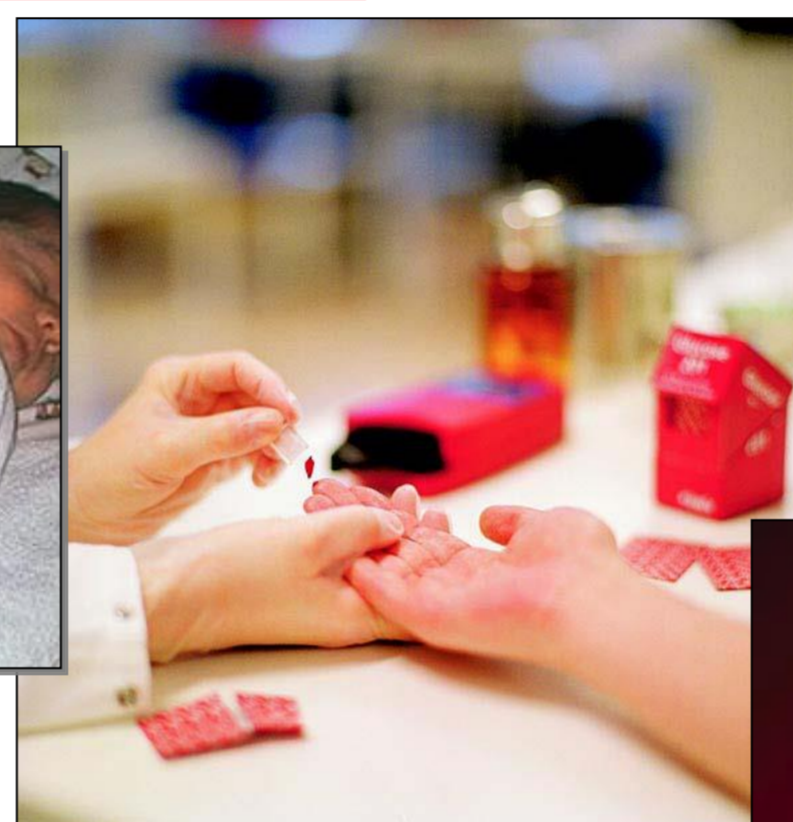


Point of Care Testing: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The Good

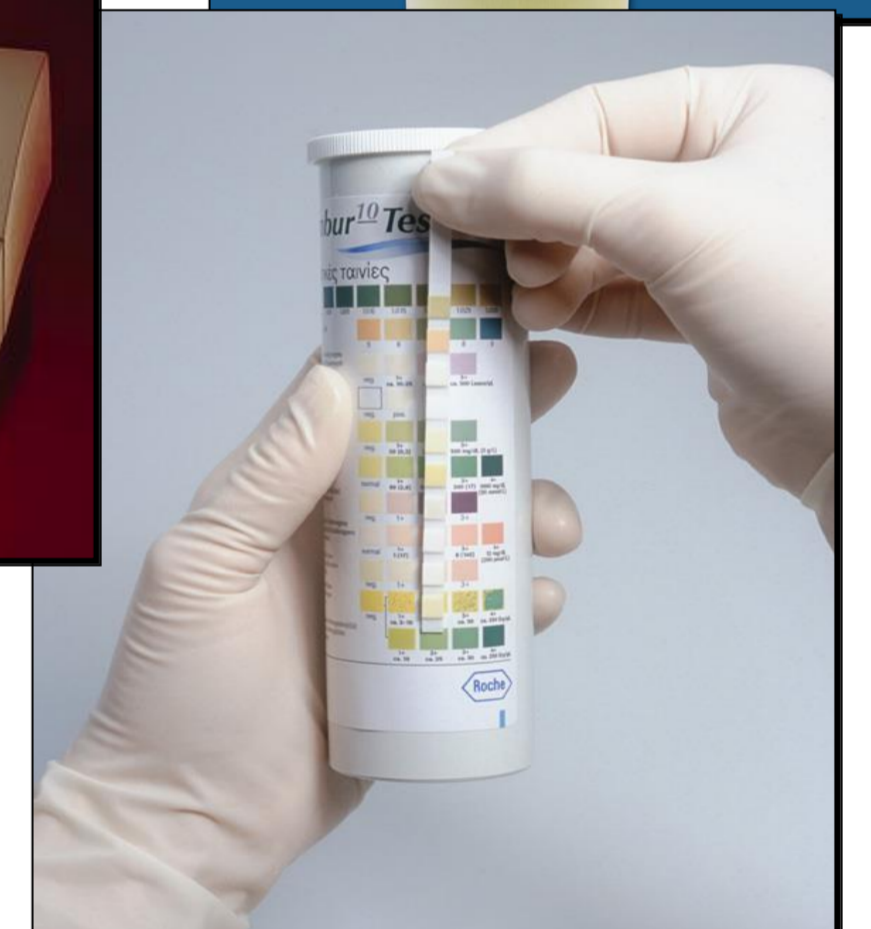
- Training.
- Competency assessment.
- External Quality Assurance.
- Internal Quality Control.
- Calibration.
- Clinical Governance.
- Standard Operating Procedures.
- Maintenance.
- Record keeping.
- Health & Safety.
- MHRA POCT – Top 10 Tips.



The Bad

One Patient's Experience

- Patient has a family history of heart disease.
- Following GP and Consultant consultations, the patient's cholesterol was measured at an NHS laboratory.
- Later, a high street chemist was offering free, point of care testing for cholesterol.....



Date of test	Cholesterol level measured at:	
	NHS laboratory	High street pharmacy
10.09.03	5.6	
02.12.04	6.2	
07.12.04		2.69
17.12.04		2.76
19.01.05	6.4	
02.02.05		4.11
05.10.05	6.3	
25.10.05		4.18
06.09.06	5.6	
13.09.06		4.38



The Ugly

- High differential between results.
- Pharmacist: "Results are correct as our equipment is calibrated weekly".
- Patient / client could be seriously misled with regard to cholesterol level.
- Patient / client could be unaware of a high cholesterol level.