

## Case Study Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust

# Point Of Care Testing in clinic setting

**In response to government initiatives and targets to decrease waiting times whilst increasing the provision of patient centred care, services for improved patient driven point of care testing will undoubtedly continue to expand. This has also led to greater demand and interest for the ABX Pentra 60C+ where 5-part diff is required - eg Oncology clinics and A&E - as laboratory quality results are provided in a POCT setting, and importantly within 60 seconds.**

**This Case Study discusses how the ABX Pentra 60C+ has enhanced the quality of patient care and well-being as part of an integrated point of care service.**

*"We are so confident in the results produced by the ABX Pentra 60C+ compared to our previous analyser that we have doubled the number of samples now processed within A&E"*

Ian Johnson  
Chief Biomedical Scientist  
Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust

User confidence in results delivered is a prerequisite for any point of care haematology analyser. At Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust, a lack of user confidence in their incumbent point of care analyser in A&E meant that the majority of blood samples were still being sent to the pathology laboratory. Since haematology represents the largest turnover of all pathology tests required by A&E, any subsequent delay in receiving results then placed pressure on achieving the four-hour turnaround target for patient processing. In this article we meet with Ian Johnson, Chief Biomedical Scientist at Lewisham, who explains how the installation of an ABX Pentra 60C+ point of care analyser is now helping to overcome such issues.

### Improving patient turnaround times

University Hospital Lewisham is an extremely busy acute district general hospital with a high throughput of patients through A&E Departments. On average, the hospital sees more than 70,000 patients each year in Adult A&E and nearly 30,000 patients in Children's A&E. As a consequence, the installation of a reliable and robust point of care haematology analyser into Adult A&E was essential to help Lewisham screen patients promptly and meet A&E waiting time targets. The ABX Pentra 60C+ was selected to do this job, enabling trained Emergency Department Assistants and medical staff alike to rapidly obtain haematology results for themselves and stop the wait for lab results.

### Why the ABX Pentra 60C+?

An analyser that users trusted was a key requirement in the Trust's selection process. "We are so confident in the results produced by



*The ABX Pentra 60C+ in action in A&E at Lewisham*

the ABX Pentra 60C+ compared to our previous analyser that we have actually doubled the number of samples now processed within A&E, which can range from 50 to 200 samples per day," explained Ian. "The reduction in urgent requests to the laboratory has also had a significant beneficial impact on the pathology laboratory at night when there is only one BMS on duty." The IT back up of the ABX Pentra 60C+ was also an important consideration, for example, IT interfacing and data storage capabilities will ensure that results are electronically processed and available at the click of a PC button.

### Differential assisted diagnosis

In addition to its reliability and quality of results delivered for both full blood cell and differential white blood cell counts, the ability to use the new system to assist in differentiating for diagnostic purposes was another key factor in Lewisham's decision. "As the only compact point-of-care haematology system to offer 26 parameters with 5-Part Differential for white blood cells, the ABX Pentra 60C+

is now supporting the diagnosis of certain conditions actually within A&E. For example, by being able to differentiate granulocytes as indicators of asthmatic allergic conditions, our medical staff can now readily distinguish between a patient with bronchitis or an acute asthma attack."

### A hands on approach

Finally, Ian also felt that the attitude of the analyser supplier towards training, maintenance and support was another very important factor. "HORIBA ABX offered more than other suppliers that we looked at, since they were able to provide personnel to train and liaise with not only our pathology staff, but our medical personnel as well." Ian concluded, "We have also been very pleased with the responsiveness that HORIBA ABX have shown to our calls for help and technical queries. The technical support team have a thorough knowledge of the system and can usually talk any queries through over the phone. Our working relationship with HORIBA ABX really couldn't be better and we look forward to a happy future together!"

Analysis **Anywhere**

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