Near patient testing in diabetes clinics: appraising the costs and outcomes
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Authors' objectives
To compare the costs and consequences of providing test results by near patient testing (NPT) compared with conventional testing. The effect of the testing method on the process of care, the accuracy of testing, patient satisfaction, clinical attitudes, and health service and patient costs was investigated. A secondary aim was to generate hypotheses concerning the effect of the testing method on clinical outcome.

Authors' conclusions
The results of this initial research project indicate that providing HbA1C results by NPT seems to improve the process of care and aspects of patient satisfaction. A prospective RCT of NPT in diabetes clinics is now needed.

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