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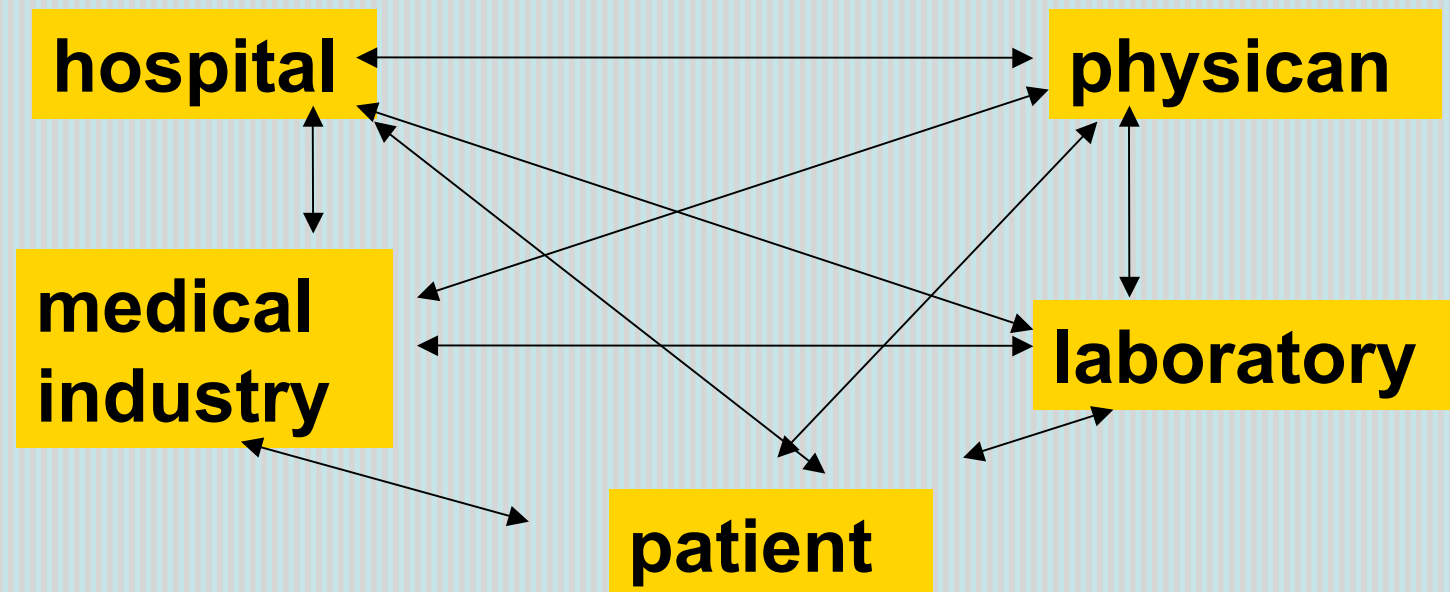
# The economic use of a POCT standard.

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# Transaction cost economics

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Each of these interactions bares potential costs and a source of misinterpretations and misunderstandings.

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# 10 theses

Based on the ideal patient-focused therapy  
and the transaction cost economics one can  
deduct following:

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# 1. POCT is simple and evokes trust in the patient.

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The patient is able to apply the apparatus by himself, this provides the patient with a more amenable and convenient way to monitor his condition (safety, control, autonomy). As soon as the patients' readings exceed threshold values he may then contact his physician. If the apparatus is part of a network then this may be automated.

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## 2. POCT is fast and efficient

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Time is of the essence, especially in intensive care. In the case of classical laboratory diagnostics several hours pass between when material is sampled and when results are finally available.

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### 3. POCT ensures safety

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Control costs are reduced due to a patient-focused data monitoring. Data is no longer controlled by laboratory personnel but rather peripherally or by the patient himself. Additionally, interconnected systems permit extensive data auditing and verification (documentation, progression and quality control).

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## 4. POCT prevents errors

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By reducing the number of interactions between laboratories and diagnosis transcription errors are avoided.

The control costs and the cost for managing the error which would arise in the event of errors and their legal follow-up costs, can be minimised.

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## 5. POCT reduces duration of in-patient status.

Hospitalisation time is reduced due to the application of a targeted diagnostic. The patient is examined once only and does not need several consecutive appointments. The diagnostic is more expedient and so the required therapy may begin earlier.

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## 6. POCT is always constantly at hand

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so that staff members become available. POCT knows neither opening hours, queue time nor on-call duty.

Diagnostic findings may be ascertained at any time. No idle-time costs arise due to not filled capacities and the employment of less personnel in the laboratory.

Concomitantly ward staff are able to work at improved capacity.

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## 7. POCT reduces the work load for laboratory personnel

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By decentralising diagnostics, work capacity of laboratory personnel becomes available. Along with this the work load of non-laboratory staff (physicians, nursing) is increased. This is of economic advantage as laboratory staff is more expensive than nursing staff and a redistribution of the work load would make it financially worth while.

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## 8. POCT provides an overview of capacities

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Centralisation of performance and expense

documentation is essential for a modern business.

Potential resources are realised and implemented.

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## 9. POCT provides decentralised access to a uniform database

A physician is provided with access to laboratory values at any time and from any place so that he may update and compare new data. Herewith, control costs and information costs may be lessened. Without the appropriate standards, this conformity would not exist and thus the advantages which would arise from theses 1-8 would be significantly marginalised.

## 10. The POCT standard provides a basis

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for the patient focused, economically oriented therapy strategies in the health service. Without the implementation of such a standard, POCT will remain stuck in an underdeveloped stage so that it would suffer from extensive quality, documentation and cost control losses.

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