

Point-of-care creatinine tests to assess kidney function before contrast-enhanced imaging (provisional title)

Point-of-care creatinine tests enable rapid measurement of creatinine levels using very small samples of whole blood, serum or plasma. The focus of the assessment will be point-of-care creatinine testing to assess kidney function before people have contrast-enhanced imaging. Testing is important because contrast materials such as iodine or gadolinium can cause kidney injury, particularly in high-risk patients and those with known kidney dysfunction. If patients do not have a recent creatinine measurement, their imaging may be cancelled and rescheduled. Alternatively, they may have unenhanced imaging – which is less reliable – or in an emergency, the planned contrast agent may be given, risking kidney injury. Point-of-care creatinine testing may reduce the incidence of cancelled scans, minimise the risk of kidney injury and improve the patient experience. The NICE Diagnostics Assessment Programme will assess the clinical and cost-effectiveness of point-of-care creatinine tests in order to make recommendations on their use in the NHS.