



State of the Art Point of Care Testing

By Molly Fantasia, M.B.A., Ph.D.

*Molly Fantasia is executive Director
of the Cherry Hill Wellness Center.*

The Cherry Hill Wellness Center is a busy fee-for-service molecular medicine clinic with a specialty in chelation and other IV therapy protocols. From our very inception, the Center has based all of our unique individualized treatment plans on laboratory data. Our medical team and our patients realize the value of tracking both the quantitative and the qualitative changes that develop when patients are receiving chelation and IV therapy. The Center's lab uses both comprehensive chemistry and hematology analyzers.

Abaxis Piccolo® Blood Analyzer

We chose the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Analyzer to augment our lab equipment because of the ease of operation and the immediate availability of the patient results. With the Piccolo, our medical team can review the data within 13 minutes. We can then quickly analyze the data, share it with patients and make the necessary adjustments to the treatment plan compliance. A positive and informed patient experience is most important in a fee for service environment.

Ease of Operation

The Piccolo's ease of operation has been an added benefit for our organization because there has been no need for additional trained technical personnel. In fact, the Piccolo has freed up our medical technologists to do more sophisticated testing as directed by our doctors in special need circumstances. At the same time the self-

contained quality control features help us feel confident that the results we are collecting are accurate.

Since the instant gratification of lab results produces such an upswing in patient satisfaction and return visits, we have been more than able to justify the cost factor of the instrument.

State-of-the-Art Testing

Point of care testing in an ambulatory setting has been available for some time now. However, the Piccolo offers disc technology, expanded point of care menus, ease of operation, and a low cost per

panel price point. In the future, many more practices will benefit from looking into this technology for patient education, screening and enhancement of treatment outcomes. The fact that the technology permits patients to have immediate results available for review and dialogue with their physicians is invaluable. The patient can understand what is happening clinically, examine available options for care and commit to the treatment plan that will be monitored on-going. This ensures the patient buy in necessary to complete a successful course of treatment. As an additional plus on the marketing side, the addition of the Piccolos

alerts our patients that Cherry Hill Wellness Center is at the forefront of providing the best of the new technology as well as cutting-edge treatment options in this new medical millennium.



The Abaxis Piccolo Blood Analysis System