Abbott has long been in the business of diagnostic testing. Historically this type of testing was mainly done in the hospital or at the doctor's office and a patient would have to wait a day – or several – before getting those results back. Today, we're seeing a dramatic shift in the way medical diagnostic testing is delivered and it is having a significant, positive impact on patient care.

Point of care testing is driving this shift. It allows a healthcare provider to test a patient at or near the bedside. Whether it’s in an urgent care clinic, the hospital or an ambulance, doctors and patients are getting results faster than ever.

Abbott now has the leading range of point of care testing. We now have one of the broadest portfolios testing more conditions, in more settings and in more places around the world. So when you bring your child to the doctor to test for strep or flu, it's quite possible it will be an Abbott test giving you those rapid tests results that allow you to get your family back to health and life.

"Point of care testing is the fastest growing segment of in vitro diagnostics because it can produce quicker results closer to the patient," says Sharon Bracken, senior vice president, Abbott Rapid Diagnostics. "This means that patients can be treated faster, more patients can be seen and better care can be provided."

Abbott now leads in cardiometabolic, infectious disease and toxicology testing.

**Cardiometabolic**
- Cardiovascular disease results in nearly 18 million deaths per year globally
- Greater than 400 million adults globally have diabetes

As patients and healthcare providers address the impact of these diseases, new tools are needed to create more rapid testing results and greater efficiencies in care. Abbott will now offer additional tests that diagnose and manage conditions related to diabetes, heart function and cholesterol levels. These tests will provide quick results while the patient is still at the point of care, which allows healthcare providers the ability to provide immediate care.

**Infectious Disease**
- Over 17 million people globally die from Infectious diseases every year

The rates of infectious diseases are staggering, yet it’s not something people think about until they are faced with illness. Getting rapid testing results can make all the difference when seeking care. Abbott can now provide fast and accurate testing results for more
than 100 infectious diseases. And importantly, offers those tests in markets where testing happens in more remote settings. Providing access to testing and eliminating the wait for results can provide the much-needed care patients need.

**Toxicology**

- Illicit drug use causes 50,000 deaths per year in the U.S.

As the global epidemic of drug abuse – both illicit and prescription – grows at an alarming rate, healthcare providers are faced with new challenges in care. This also increases the demand for government and employer drug screening, and we will now be able to provide that testing to employers, governments, and hospitals.

"The breadth of this portfolio allows us to better serve patients by bringing testing to rural settings in remote locations," says Bracken. "We are not only helping people, but we’re also giving healthcare providers the tools they need to improve care."