PROTOCOL for Point of Care Testing of Full Blood Count

**AIM**: To compare the results obtained for a full blood count from a finger-prick point of care device, with the results obtained from a venous sample via a laboratory-based analyser.

**HYPOTHESIS**: That results obtained by finger-prick will be comparable to results obtained from the laboratory and will have the additional benefits of results being available quicker and the test being more user-friendly.

**METHOD**:

1. Obtain consent from patient (see participant information and consent form)
2. Patient will have a venous blood test which will be analysed by the Haematology laboratory analyser as part of their usual care. Any decisions on care will be made on this result.
3. The patient will have an additional finger-prick capillary blood test within 2 hours of the venous blood test and this will be analysed on a desk-top point of care analyser by the investigator/co-investigator/appropriately trained staff member.
4. A standard operating procedure will be developed for both the collection of the finger-prick sample and the use of the analyser
5. The result obtained by both methods will be compared to determine if they are within acceptable limits to enable the analyser to be used in clinical practice.
6. All data collected will be stored in a database on a secure server within Palmerston North Hospital. The data will be de-identified and analysed anonymously.