

# USER GUIDELINE FOR SIEMENS ePOC BLOOD GAS ANALYSER

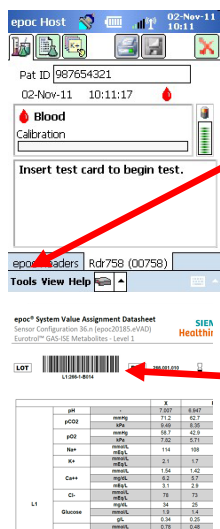
## Running a Quality Control (IQC/EQA) Test

### STORAGE

- Quality Control test solutions must be stored in the trust clinical chemistry laboratory.
- Control fluid ampoules must be allowed to equilibrate to Room Temperature (20-25°C) before use. Equilibration time is **1 hr** for a **single IQC vial** or **4 hrs** for **EQA vials** – **N.B.** 4 hours for full box of IQC vials.
- Multiple Test Cards can be tested using the same ampoule only if tested at same time on multiple readers.



### CONFIGURATION AND CALIBRATION



- Switch on the Host & Reader. **DO NOT** insert test card at this stage.
- Input user ID and password into Host using barcode or keypad and insert test card when Host prompts 'insert test card'.
- Select Run QA from the 'Tools' dropdown menu.
- When Host prompts 'insert test card', open test card (do not touch sensor). **NEVER PLACE TEST CARD ON ANY SURFACE.**
- Place test card into slot, using both thumbs, smoothly & firmly push until resistance is felt. Reader will BLEEP to indicate acceptance of test card. If unable to read remove card and try again.
- Calibration takes 2mins 45 seconds
- Find the appropriate Value Assignment Datasheet (VAD), check that the LOT# matches the one on the control fluid vial and scan the barcode on the data sheet.
- Once the test card validation is complete, shake the ampoule vigorously for 30-60 seconds to re-equilibrate gases with the solution. The ampoule should be held between the thumb and forefinger to avoid warming the solution.

### SAMPLE INTRODUCTION

- In order to preserve gases in the Control Fluid, immediately draw up the fluid from the ampoule into a plain syringe – 2 to 3 ml - by slowly aspirating, from the bottom of the ampoule, through a 16-20-gauge needle.
- Draw up 2 mls of fluid. **NEVER** use the last 0.5 mL of Control Fluid in the Syringe.
- If air becomes entrapped between the syringe plunger and the fluid do not attempt to expel it. This air is far enough away so as to not affect the solution near the tip of the syringe. However, an air bubble traveling through the sample would contaminate it throughout its entire volume.
- If a stream of air bubbles is drawn into the syringe, or an air bubble gets trapped near the syringe tip, discard both the syringe and the ampoule and begin again with a new syringe and ampoule.
- Without delay, deliver the control fluid into the Test Card.
- Before injecting fluid in the Test Card, expel a few drops from the syringe, remove the needle and apply the syringe luer in the Test Card's Sample Introduction Port as per during a normal Blood Test procedure.

### SAMPLE ANALYSIS & OBTAINING RESULTS

- Reader will automatically analyse sample once correct amount is added. This takes approx. 35s. (Patient ID & additional details can be entered if not done previously).
- Results are available in 3 sub tabs:
  - Gases
  - Chemistry
  - Metabolites.
- Once completed remove test card & discard in a clinical waste bin.

### RECORDING RESULTS

- Record the results obtained in the ePOC blue Records Folder.
- If any reader fails the quality control test, ensure all test conditions are correct
- and repeat the test. If it still fails, contact BWC Clinical Chemistry for support