| **Potassium on Abbott** |
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| **Purpose** | This procedure provides instructions for POTASSIUM ON ABBOTT INSTRUMENTATION. The potassium method is an *in vitro* diagnostic test for the quantitative measurement of potassium in human serum and plasma on the Abbott Architect c4000 or Abbott Alinity c automated chemistry analyzers. |
| **Policy Statements** | This procedure applies to all personnel responsible for operating the Abbott Architect c4000 or Abbott Alinity c at Children’s Minnesota Laboratory.  |
| **Principle** | The Abbott Architect c4000 and Alinity c analyzers utilize Integrated Chip Technology (ICT). The ICT contains ion-selective electrodes (ISE) for sodium, potassium, and potassium and utilizes membranes selective to each of these ions. An electrical potential (voltage) is developed across the membranes between the reference and measuring electrodes in accordance with the Nernst equation. The voltage is compared to previously determined calibrator voltages and converted into ion concentration.Methodology: Ion-selective electrode diluted (Indirect) |
| **Clinical Significance** | Potassium is the major intracellular cation. The concentration of potassium in the erythrocytes is approximately 23 times the concentration in plasma. For this reason, only unhemolyzed samples are recommended. Decreased levels of extracellular potassium are characterized by weakness in the muscles, irritability, paralysis, accelerated heartbeat, and eventually cardiac arrest, and may be caused by a poor intake of potassium in the diet, by a redistribution of extracellular potassium, and by an increased loss of body fluids rich in potassium. Abnormally elevated levels of extracellular potassium produce mental confusion, general weakness, numbness, flaccid paralysis in the extremities, a slowed heart rate, and eventually collapse of the peripheral vascular system and cardiac arrest. Causes of increased potassium levels may be linked to inappropriate intravenous therapy, dehydration, shock, diabetic ketoacidosis, and severe burns. |
| **Analyzer** | **Minneapolis: Abbott Alinity c (Sunquest method code: MALIC)****St. Paul: Abbott Architect c4000 (Sunquest method code: ARCH4)** |
| **Sunquest Test Codes** | K: Potassium in serum and plasma |
| **Specimen** | Sample: Plasma (lithium heparin with or without gel) preferred. Sodium heparin plasma (fully filled tubes only) or serum (with or without gel) also acceptable. Refer to specimen collection procedures.**Minimum sample volume:** 200 µL preferred, 150 µL minimum**Stability when separated from cells/gel:** RT / 7 days, 2-8 °C / 7 days, < -20°C / 12 months**Rejection criteria:** Unlabeled tube, sample type other than serum or heparinized plasma. See Interferences section for how to handle hemolyzed samples.**Preparation:** 1. Whole blood specimens should be centrifuged following complete clot formation, according to Specimen Processing procedures prior to analysis.
2. Serum or plasma should be physically separated from cells as soon as possible with a maximum limit of two hours from the time of collection.
3. Specimens should be free of particulate matter.
4. Transfer serum or plasma to a properly labeled pilot tube or aliquot cup. Architect and Alinity systems utilize a specimen level detect mechanism, so special racks specific to tube-type are not required.
5. Minimum labeling includes sample accession ID, and/ or patient name, medical record number, collection date and time.
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| **Reagents** | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:****Reagent Handling** Upon receipt, place reagent cartridges in an upright position for 1 hour before use to allow bubbles that may have formed to dissipate. If a reagent cartridge is dropped, place in an upright position for 1 hour before use to allow bubbles that may have formed to dissipate. Reagents are susceptible to the formation of foam and bubbles. Bubbles may interfere with the detection of the reagent level in the cartridge and cause insufficient reagent aspiration that may adversely affect results. Use a pipette to remove all bubbles prior to loading on the Alinity or Architect system.* Do not use reagents beyond the expiration date.
* Do not pool reagents within a kit or between kits.
* Do not use components from one lot with components from another lot.

**Alinity c:**Reagents may be stored on or off the system. If removed from the system, store reagents with new replacement caps in an upright position at 15 - 30 °C. For reagents stored off the system, it is recommended that they be stored in their original trays or boxes to ensure they remain upright.**Alinity c:**

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| ***Product Description*** | ***Product Code*** | ***Stability*** |
| Abbott Alinity c ICT Sample Diluent (ICTD5) ReagentCHC# 32642 | 07P53-20 | **Store at:** 15 - 30 °C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**On-board: 30 days****Opened, off the analyzer (with clean caps):** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date. (Reagents may be stored on or off the system. The system tracks time onboard.) |
| Abbott Alinity ***and*** Architect ICT ModuleCHC# 32595NOTE: this ICT module is used on both Alinity and Architect systems. | 09D28-04 | **Store at: 15 - 30 °C****Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**On-board:** 60,000 tests (15,000 each for Na, K, Cl-). The module can still be used onboard past the printed expiration date provided the slope of the ICT calibration is above 45% and the quality controls are all acceptable. ICT modules are expected to last between 3-6 months or more.  |
| Abbott Alinity c ICT Serum CalibratorCHC# 32636 | 01E46-03 | **Store at:** 15 - 30°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**On board expiration: 5 days when stored onboard.** The Alinity c tracks time on the system.**Opened expiration: 7 days** when opened and stored off the system at 2 – 8 °C. |

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|  | **Architect c4000:**

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| ***Product Description*** | ***Product Code*** | ***Stability*** |
| Abbott Architect ICT Sample Diluent (ICTD5) ReagentCHC# 32550 | 02P32-11 | **Store at:** 15 - 30°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date.**On-board:** 30 Days |
| Abbott Architect ICT Serum CalibratorCHC# 32563 | 01E46-03 | **Store at:** 15 - 30°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**Opened:** 7 Days at 2 - 8°C |

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| **Risk and Safety** |

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| **CAUTION:** For in vitro diagnostic use. This product requires the handling of human specimens. It is recommended that all human sourced materials be considered potentially infectious and be handled in accordance with the OSHA Standard on Bloodborne Pathogens. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn according to Children’s Minnesota Laboratory policies. Current SDSs are kept on the [Children’s StarNet](https://msdsmanagement.msdsonline.com/a07dc954-23d8-42a9-b591-ef5763cdfd33/ebinder/?nas=True) pageDispose of used reagent and calibrators in regular trash. |

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| **Calibration** | **Alinity c** and **Architect c4000:**

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| Assay Range: | 1.0 – 10.0 mEq/L (mmol/L) |
| Reference Material: | Abbott Alinity ICT Serum CalibratorAbbott Architect ICT Serum Calibrator |
| Suggested Calibration Levels: | CAL L: 3.4 mmol/L(mEq/L)CAL H: 8.0 mmol/L(mEq/L) |
| Calibration Scheme: | 2 levels, Potentiometric data reduction method |
| Calibration Frequency: | 24 Hours |
| AMR | AMR is verified twice annually using the Maine Standards GC1 Product # 1100ab by running all applicable levels in triplicate. Assay results are submitted to Maine Standards for compilation and comparison to peers. Results are reviewed and approved by the Technical Specialist. Any questionable results are investigated and corrective actions documented.  |

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| **Quality Control** | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:** Bio-Rad Liquichek™ Unassayed Chemistry Control (Human) Levels 1 & 2**Frequency:** Two levels each shift**Stability:** Once thawed, opened, and stored tightly capped at 2 to 8°C, this product will be labeled with an expiration date equal to the shortest stability of the included analytes, which is **6 days.****Preparation**: This product should be treated the same as patient specimens and run in accordance with the instructions accompanying the instrument, kit, or reagent being used. * To thaw the product, allow it to stand at room temperature (18° to 25°C) until completely thawed but no longer than one (1) hour.
* After thawing, the product **MUST** be gently swirled and inverted several times to ensure homogeneity.
* For optimal analyte stability in the thawed state, promptly return to 2 to 8°C storage after each use and minimize the time at room temperature to no more than 20 minutes daily.
* **Before each use**, gently swirl the contents until homogeneous with no visible signs of precipitate.

**Acceptable ranges:** * Non-Bio-Rad controls will utilize manufacturer ranges and 2 SD Westgard rules.
* New lots of Bio-Rad controls should be run for 20 days in parallel with the current lot whenever possible prior to switching to the new lot.
* Refer to the Westgard Rules in Chemistry procedure (insert hyperlink) for current Westgard rules in place for each analyte.
* **Acceptable ranges are current in Unity Real Time only.** Quality Control results must be rejected in Sunquest when the results cross the interface.
* In the event of a QC failure, refer to the [Unity Real Time QC Review, General User](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/chem/quality/ch-2.17-unity-real-time-qc-review-general-user.pdf) and navigate to the QC Troubleshooting section.
* Do not load or release patients until QC is acceptable in Unity Real Time.
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| **Interferences** | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:****CAUTION**: Hemolysis in serum or plasma can increase test results. Samples that contain visible hemolysis should not be used, whenever possible. Otherwise, program the sample manually, inserting HP at the beginning or end of the barcode ID. When the specimen crosses the interface, change the barcode ID to the correct number and append –HP to the appropriate tests. Refer to the CH 5.301.f1 Assay Flowchart. Interference studies were conducted by Abbott Diagnostics Division using CLSI protocol NCCLSEP7-P14 and EP7-A2.15, and effects were assessed by Dose Response and Paired Difference methods at the medical decision levels of the analyte. Interference is less than 10% at potassium concentration levels of 83 mmol/L:* Hemoglobin: up to 125 mg/dL
* Bilirubin: up to 60 mg/dL
* Lipemia (Intralipid®): up to 2000 mg/dL
* Benzalkonium Chloride up to 5 mg/dL

Interferences from medication or endogenous substances may affect results.For accurate results, serum and plasma specimens should be free of fibrin, red blood cells, and other particulate matter. Serum specimens from patients receiving anticoagulant or thrombolytic therapy may contain fibrin due to incomplete clot formation.  |
|  | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:**  |
| **Reference Intervals** |

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| Age | Potassium (mEq/L = mmol/L) |
| Premature newborns, first 48 hours of life | 3.0 – 6.0 mEq/L |
| 0 to 28 days | 3.7 – 5.9 mEq/L |
| 28 to 364 days | 4.1 – 5.3 mEq/L |
| 1 to 17 years | 3.4 – 4.7 mEq/L |
| Adult | 3.4 – 5.1 mEq/L |
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| **Critical Values** | < 2.5 or > 6.5 mEq/LCall and document results according to Critical Values policy. |
| **Limitations** | The instrument reporting system contains flags and comments to provide the user with information regarding instrument processing errors, instrument status information and potential errors in potassium results. Refer to the [Abbott Architect](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/chem/operator/abbott-architect-operations-manual.pdf) or [Alinity](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/chem/operator/alinity-ci-series-operations-manual.pdf) Operator’s Guides for the meaning of report flags and comments, and instructions for addressing them. Do not report results until a report containing flags and/or comments is resolved.Hemolysis in serum or plasma can increase test results. Samples that contain visible hemolysis should not be used, whenever possible. Otherwise, program the sample manually, inserting HP at the beginning or end of the barcode ID. When the specimen crosses the interface, change the barcode ID to the correct number and append –HP to the appropriate tests. Refer to the CH 5.301.f1 Assay Flowchart. For accurate results, serum and plasma specimens should be free of fibrin, red blood cells, and other particulate matter. Serum specimens from patients receiving anticoagulant or thrombolytic therapy may contain fibrin due to incomplete clot formation. |
| **Dilutions** | Do not dilute. |
| **Result Reporting** | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:** * Results between 2.5 – 6.5 mEq/L without error messages are released
* Results below 1.0 mEq/L: report as < 1.0 mEq/L instead of the numerical value.
* Results > 10.0 mEq/L without error messages are reported as > 10.0 mEq/L rather than the numerical value.
* Results below 2.5 and greater than 6.5 mEq/L are called and documented according to the Critical Values policy.

Hemolysis in serum or plasma can increase test results. Samples that contain visible hemolysis should not be used, whenever possible. Otherwise, program the sample manually, inserting HP at the beginning or end of the barcode ID. When the specimen crosses the interface, change the barcode ID to the correct number and append –HP to the appropriate tests. Refer to CH 5.301.f1 Assay Flowchart.  |
| **Specimen Storage** | Promptly stopper tested specimen and store upright in a specimen rack. Every 8 hours remove specimens to refrigerator/freezer storage. Samples are retained 7 days in specimen storage freezer. |
| **References** | 1. Jacobs & DeMott Laboratory Test Handbook, Lexi-Comp, Inc., Hudson, OH, 5th Edition, 2001
2. Architect ICT Sample Diluent (ICTD5) Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, May 2016.
3. Alinity ICT Sample Diluent (ICTD5) Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, January 2018.
4. Alinity ICT Serum Calibrator Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, January 2018.
5. Architect ICT Serum Calibrator Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, November 2012.
6. Bio-Rad Liquichek Unassayed Chemistry Control Product Insert, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Irvine, CA 92618
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| **Historical Record** | **Version** | **Written/Revised by:** | **Effective Date:** | **Summary of Revisions** |
| 1 | Erin Bartos | 10/15/2019 | New Procedure for Abbott analyzers |
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