| **Urea Nitrogen** |
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| **Purpose** | This procedure provides instructions for UREA NITROGEN ON ABBOTT INSTRUMENATION. The urea nitrogen (also known as urea) method is an *in vitro* diagnostic test for the quantitative measurement of urea 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 Urea Nitrogen assay is a modification of a totally enzymatic procedure first described by Talke and Schubert. The test is performed as a kinetic assay in which the initial rate of the reaction is linear for a limited period of time. Urea in the sample is hydrolyzed by urease to ammonia and carbon dioxide. The second reaction, catalyzed by glutamate dehydrogenase (GLD) converts ammonia and α-ketoglutarate to glutamate and water with the concurrent oxidation of reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) to nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD). Two moles of NADH are oxidized for each mole of urea present. The initial rate of decrease in absorbance at 340 nm is proportional to the urea concentration in the sample.Methodology: Urease |
| **Clinical Significance** | Measurements obtained by this test are used in the diagnosis of certain renal and metabolic diseases. The determination of serum urea nitrogen is a widely used test for the evaluation of kidney function. The test is frequently requested in conjunction with the serum creatinine test for the differential diagnosis of prerenal (cardiac decompensation, water depletion, increased protein catabolism), renal (glomerulonephritis, chronic nephritis, polycystic kidney, nephrosclerosis, tubular necrosis), and postrenal (obstructions of the urinary tract) hyperuremia. |
| **Analyzer** | **Minneapolis: Abbott Alinity c (Sunquest method code: MALIC) or Abbott Alinity ci (Sunquest method code: MACC)****St. Paul: Abbott Architect c4000 (Sunquest method code: ARCH4), Abbott Alinity c (Sunquest method code:(SALIC)** |
| **Sunquest Test Codes** | **BUN**: Urea on serum or plasma |
| **Specimen** | Sample: Plasma (lithium heparin with or without gel) preferred. Sodium heparin plasma or serum (with or without gel) are 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 / 1 year**Rejection criteria:** Unlabeled tube, sample type other than serum or heparinized plasma**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 sendout tube. Short samples should be pipetted into an Abbott sample cup and nested on a sendout tube; any amount remaining after sampling should be pipetted into the sendout tube and tightly capped.
5. Architect and Alinity systems utilize a specimen level detect mechanism, so special racks specific to tube-type are not required.
6. 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 24 hours before use to allow bubbles that may have formed to dissipate. If a reagent cartridge is dropped, place in an upright position for 24 hours 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 2 – 8°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 Urea Nitrogen ReagentCHC# 32632 | 08P16-20 | **Store at:** 2 – 8°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**On-board: 25 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 c Multiconstituent CalibratorCHC# 32633 | 08P60-01 | **Store at:** 2 – 8°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. |

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|  | **Architect c4000:**

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| ***Product Description*** | ***Product Code*** | ***Stability*** |
| Abbott Architect Urea Nitrogen ReagentCHC# 32556 | 07D75-21 | **Store at:** 2 – 8°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date.**On-board:** 25 Days |
| Abbott Architect Multiconstituent CalibratorCHC# 32557 | 01E65-05 | **Store at:** 2 – 8°C**Unopened:** Manufacturer’s printed expiration date**Opened:** 7 Days |

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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) page.**Alinity c** and **Architect c4000:**R1 Reagent: Contains methylisothiazolone and sodium azide. May cause an allergic skin reaction. Contact with acids liberates very toxic gas. Dispose of in Regulated Medical Waste (red trash).R2 Reagent: Contains tris hydroxymethyl aminomethane and sodium azide. Causes mild skin irritation. Contact with acids liberates very toxic gas. Dispose of in Regulated Medical Waste (red trash).Multiconstituent Calibrator should be disposed of in Regulated Medical Waste (red trash). |

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

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| Assay Range: | 3 - 125 mg/dL |
| Reference Material: | Abbott Alinity Multiconstituent CalibratorAbbott Architect Multiconstituent Calibrator |
| Suggested Calibration Levels: |  See lot-specific assay set point documentation |
| Calibration Scheme: | 2 levels, Linear data reduction method |
| Calibration Frequency: | 7 Days |
| 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™ Multiqual Unassayed Chemistry Control Levels 1 & 3**Frequency:** Two levels each day of use**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 **7 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:** **Hemolysis, Icterus & Lipemia (HIL) Index Values:**

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At HIL levels at or above the specified cutoff value, append the appropriate comment AFTER visually confirming presence of interferent: -HP for “Hemolysis present, may affect results.” -BIN for “Bilirubin Interference”-LINT for “Lipid Interference” Interference studies were conducted by Abbott Diagnostics Division and effects were assessed by Dose Response and Paired Difference methods at the medical decision levels of the analyte. Interference is less than 5% at:* Hemoglobin: up to 2000 mg/dL
* Bilirubin: up to 60 mg/dL
* Triglycerides: up to 1000 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 | Urea |
| 0 – 14 days | 2.8 – 23.0 mg/dL |
| 15 - 364 days | 3.4 – 16.8 mg/dL |
| 1 – 9 years | 9.0 – 22.1 mg/dL |
| 10 - 18 years | 7.3 – 19.0 mg/dL |
| 19 – 49 years female | 7.0 – 18.7 mg/dL |
| 19 – 49 years male | 8.9 – 20.6 mg/dL |
| >50 years female | 9.8 – 20.1 mg/dL |
| >50 years male | 8.4 – 25.7 mg/dL |
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| **Critical Values** | None specified. |
| **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 urea 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.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** |

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| **Alinity c and Architect c4000:**  |
| Auto Dilution: | 1:5 |
| Maximum Manual Dilution: | Do not manually dilute |
| Diluent: | Onboard Saline |
| Manual Dilution: | Follow Abbott [Architect Operator’s Manual](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/chem/operator/abbott-architect-operations-manual.pdf) or [Alinity Operator’s Manual](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/chem/operator/alinity-ci-series-operations-manual.pdf) instructions for programming automated dilutions. The system will automatically calculate the concentration of the sample and report the result. If a diluted sample result is less than the lower value of the measuring interval of 3 mg/dL, do not report the result. Rerun and/or investigate for other possible causes of error. |

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| **Result Reporting** | **Alinity c and Architect c4000:** * Results between 3 – 125 mg/dL without error messages are released
* Results < 3 mg/dL without error messages are reported as < 3 mg/dL
* Results > 125 mg/dL should be diluted using the onboard automated 1:5 dilution. Release results without error messages following dilution.
* Results > 625 mg/dL following automated dilution are reported as > 625 mg/dL.
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| **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 Urea Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, March 2017.
3. Alinity Urea Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, February 2018.
4. Alinity c Multiconstituent Calibrator Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, December 2017.
5. Architect Multiconstituent Calibrator Package Insert, Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, Abbott Park, IL 60064, August 2017.
6. Bio-Rad Liquichek Multiqual Unassayed Chemistry Control Product Insert, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Irvine, CA 92618
7. CALIPER pediatric reference range database. (2019). Retrieved October 3, 2019, from https://caliper.research.sickkids.ca/#/
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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 |
|  | Elauteria Earnhardt | April 23, 2020 | Added St Paul Alinity c as an analyzer |
|  | 2 | Erin Bartos | 10/28/2020 | Added Alinity ci, changed QC material, title, minor wording changes |