

PH MEASUREMENT WITH PH PAPER

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PURPOSE

To provide instruction for performing fluid or solution pH using pH Indicator Strips or pH paper tape.

BACKGROUND

The acidity or alkalinity of a specimen or solution may be determined using pH paper or pH strips.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

R-F-UA-1037 pH Paper QC Log

SPECIMEN

Type of Specimen

Solution or specimen must be liquid. Avoid highly viscous samples.
 Fluids: Red top tube (plain) or leakproof container. Specimen container should be tightly capped with minimal free air space. Limit exposure to air. Promptly and carefully separate fluid from cells and place in a separate plastic tube.
 Stool: Leakproof plastic container. Avoid barium procedures and laxatives for 1 week prior to collection.
 Urine: Leakproof plastic container.

Specimen Storage and Stability

Specimens are stable at room temp for 1 hour tightly capped, refrigerated 1 day but not preferred, or frozen 6 months.

REAGENTS/EQUIPMENT

pH Hydrion paper tape dispenser or
 pH Indicator strips

Reagent Storage and Stability

Store pH indicator strips according to manufacturer instructions.

QUALITY CONTROL

Quality control on all pH paper lots is performed after receipt. Two levels of QC are performed. Results must correlate with acceptable ranges. Record results in the designated location for your site.

Quantimetrix Dipper Levels I and II or alternative control material

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tear off approximately 2 inches of pH paper from the tape dispenser, or remove a pH strip from the container. Note: Choose a dispenser or strip kit that provides an appropriate pH range for the fluid being tested.
2. Immerse the paper or strip into the solution and observe for color change.
3. Remove the paper or strip when the color no longer changes.
4. Determine the pH by promptly comparing the color with the ranges displayed on the dispenser or indicator strip box.
5. Record the results in the LIS.

REFERENCE RANGES

Serous Fluid	6.8-7.6
Synovial Fluid	Parallels serum
Stool	No reference ranges established
Urine	5.0-8.0

REFERENCES

1. pH Hydrion Paper Dispenser package instruction, Micro Essential Laboratory Inc., Brooklyn, NY 11210.
2. SP® pH Indicator Strips package instruction, Cardinal Health, McGaw Park, IL, 60085.