

Cholestech LDX®

Tips & Tricks

At Alere Ltd we are always trying to think of ways to serve you better. One concern for Point of Care testing is Quality Control (QC) as there is always a fine balance financially as to its cost v. benefits with the lack of legislation for Point of Care testing.

This Tips & Tricks guide is designed to keep you up-to-date and keep your service running perfectly.

Following these simple manufacturers' recommended steps for the Cholestech LDX will help you provide accurate results and help save you time & money by preventing retesting of patients.

There are two recommended IQC (Internal Quality Control) methods available to all Cholestech LDX users through Alere Ltd.

- a. Cholestech LDX Liquid QC Material
- b. Bolton IQC Scheme
(Run and distributed by CPA Accredited Royal Bolton Hospital Biochemistry Laboratories)

The basic methodology is the same for both but there is more responsibility for the user / group lead when using the Cholestech LDX QC Material, so for these reasons, and in most cases, we recommend the use of the Bolton IQC Scheme.

Bolton IQC Scheme:

1. You will receive an email from qcscheme@rbh.nhs.uk (Bolton IQC) to say that the samples have been sent to you, this email will contain two templates for your results.
2. As soon as you receive the Quality Control material these should be run on the system in exactly the same way as running a patient sample. As you will receive two vials, with coloured tops (e.g. QC A Blue & QC B Red), two cassettes should be used, one for each vial.
3. If you are unable to run the sample immediately, place the vials in a suitable fridge at 2°C to 8°C. The samples will have an expiry so ensure you run both samples before this date.
4. The samples should be at room temperature before they are run and a gentle mixing of the sample by inversion 7 to 8 times is also advised, but do not introduce bubbles into the sample... remember bubbles are troubles!
5. Use the Cholestech LDX capillary and plunger to transfer 35µl of sample from the vial into the cassette (also at room temperature) and run immediately on the system exactly as if it were a whole blood patient sample.
6. The results for each vial and each analyte should be entered into the email template (example below) and sent back to the Bolton IQC Scheme by using the 'reply button' on your email software.
7. Royal Bolton Hospital Labs will normally reply within 2-3 hours ('normal office hours / working days'). A **green tick** ✓ next to the result shows no further action is required, however a **red cross** ✗ shows that a retest is required. Remarks may also be placed in the comments box.

8. In addition, good practice suggests that a QC sample should be run with any new batch of cassettes. For this reason I suggest that you keep the Bolton IQC sample in your fridge until you get confirmed good results from the Royal Bolton Hospital Labs and that you are sure you will not need to run it on new batches of consumables. Remember this sample can be run at anytime and can be useful in the unlikely event of concerns or difficulties with your Cholestech LDX system. There will be enough for 3 tests in each vial.
9. If you have ANY problems or concerns about the use of the Cholestech LDX, the Bolton IQC Scheme, consumables or the reagents, please call the dedicated Customer Care Team (direct phone numbers below) who will be happy to answer your questions.

If we don't know you are having problems, we can't help you!

Example of results entered into the email template:

Example of results entered into the email template for sample QC A – Blue Top Vial. You will see that Joe Bloggs returned his results from Serial Number A12345 on the 01/02/09 and the results for HDL showed a problem as highlighted by the red cross **x**. Joe then ran this sample again on the 02/02/2009 and the result was then marked with a green tick **✓** to show it was now in range.

QC A			TC	✓	TRIG	✓	HDL	✓	GLU	
Test Date	Serial Number	Operator Name		x		x		x		
1.2.09	A12345	Joe Bloggs	3.55	✓	1.2	✓	0.5	x	5.7	
2.2.09	Retest	Joe Bloggs					0.8	✓		
Comments (Bolton Hospitals Use Only):										

ALL ENQUIRIES please contact the Customer Care Team: (0161) 483 5884
OUT OF HOURS: 07917 091581