





POCT Link Trainer Guide – iSTAT alinity training

This document summarises the key points which should be covered by link trainers during training of **POCT blood gas analysis** using the **Abbott iSTAT Alinity**.

<p><u>Purpose</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The iSTAT alinity measures pH, blood gases, electrolytes, co-oximetry, glucose, and lactate. • It aids in diagnosing and managing medical conditions by providing rapid analysis of acid-base balance, oxygenation, and electrolyte levels.
<p><u>Sample requirements</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample volume = 65uL. • Venous or arterial whole blood should be taken in a dry, balanced heparin blood gas syringe or capillary tube (fill cartridge within 10 minutes of collection). • Venous samples can also be collected in a lithium heparin tube (fill cartridge within 10 minutes of collection). • Capillary whole blood should be taken in a balanced heparin capillary tube (fill cartridge immediately after collection). • When using CG4+ cartridges for blood gas and lactate the cartridge MUST be filled immediately. • Label samples with patient details.
<p><u>Quality Control</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QCs and electronic stimulator checks are performed by the POCT team at the beginning of every month.
<p><u>Patient / sample preparation</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain positive patient identification and (when possible) consent. • Wear the appropriate PPE. • Obtain samples described in the 'sample requirements' section.
<p><u>Analysis</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the test cartridge has been at room temp for at least 5 minutes prior to use. • Select 'perform patient test' and then scan your operator ID when prompted. • Enter the patient NHS number.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scan the barcode on the cartridge pouch then choose the sample type (venous/capillary/arterial).• Follow the instructions on the screen to fill the cartridge, close it and then insert it into the machine.• The test will run and then prompt you once finished.
<u>Results</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are displayed on the screen after analysis has been completed. They can also be found by: More Options > Review Results > All Results.• Results can be printed by holding the machine in front of the printer and pressing 'print'.• Results are automatically transferred to patient records. Record results in patient notes.
<u>After testing</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispose of test cartridges following waste management guidance.• The analyser can be cleaned with Clinell wipes – avoid liquid entering the cartridge port, metal pins under the barcode reader, gold contacts on the underside of the battery.
<u>Stock</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test cartridges and printer paper are provided by the POCT team.
<u>Analyser issues</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact POCT:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ York (772)5890○ Scarborough (771)2659• Bridlington (771) 3321

*** DO NOT SHARE YOUR OPERATOR ID WITH ANYONE ***

*** IT IS A DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE ***