

## **BLOOD GAS – CYCLE 38**

**Expiry date: 2012-10**

### **Introduction:**

Method questionnaires are available for all Thistle programmes. It is important to read and understand this document. If you have any queries please contact Thistle QA immediately for assistance.

### **Characteristics:**

Your pack contains vials of 2.5 ml samples. Each vial is labelled with the cycle, sample number and the date of analysis. The samples are sealed ampoules containing buffers and salts in a bovine serum matrix.

### **IMPORTANT: Vials must be stored at 2-8 °C**

After opening, the ampoule is stable for a maximum of 30 seconds.

**Please check your kit upon arrival and call Thistle immediately if there are any problems with your kit or samples.**

### **Preparation:**

1. Allow the ampoule to reach a room temperature of  $\pm 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
2. Immediately before use, shake the ampoule vigorously for at least 15 seconds to re-equilibrate the gases with the solution. When shaken, the ampoule should be held between the thumb and index finger.
3. Swirl the ampoule gently to return the solution to the bottom of the ampoule. Allow any air bubbles to rise between shaking and before opening the ampoule by tapping the ampoule gently.
4. Protect fingers with gauze, tissue or gloves.
5. Hold the ampoule with the coloured dot upside. Snap off the neck of the ampoule in the opposite direction of the coloured dot.
6. Follow within 30 seconds the sampling procedure according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Safety:**

#### **Warning: Potentially Biohazardous Material**

For complete protection it is recommended that the samples be handled as carefully as patient samples. **Protect your fingers with gauze, tissue or gloves.**

Dispose of used samples as you would for patient samples.

**Return of Results:**

Each of the samples has a number printed on the label. We recommend analysis dates as shown below. Please send your results - **at the latest** - on the final cut-off dates given below. If the recommended analysis date does not allow you to get results to us on time, please analyse earlier. Use the correct dates for the sample numbers in the kit sent to your laboratory. If in doubt, please contact Thistle immediately for assistance.

**Additional Notes:**

Web site submission is available – please enter via web site using the user name and password given to you by Thistle QA.

EDI system users must work through their relevant QA Divisions to ensure that results are imported in due time.

The reports will be posted / e-mailed within 7 -10 working days of the FINAL cut-off date.

Collusion and/or falsification of EQA results are not good accreditation practice.

**Return Dates for Results: Blood Gas – Cycle 38**

| <b><u>Sample No:</u></b> | <b><u>Analysis Dates:</u></b> | <b><u>Final Cut-off Dates:</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1                        | 25 July 2011                  | 1 August 2011                      |
| 2                        | 22 August 2011                | 29 August 2011                     |
| 3                        | 19 September 2011             | 26 September 2011                  |
| 4                        | 24 October 2011               | 31 October 2011                    |
| 5                        | 21 November 2011              | 28 November 2011                   |
| 6                        | 19 December 2011              | 26 December 2011                   |