









i-STAT Quick Guide: Part I – The Cartridges

RULE 1: Cartridges must be at room temperature for at least 5 minutes before use.

RULE 2: Hand-write the room temperature expiry date on any cartridge stored on the bench ******

****** If storing whole cartridge boxes on the bench, clearly label front of each box with the on-bench expiry date. Do not “top-up” any boxes from fridge stock.

Cartridge	On-bench room temperature expiry **	Note	Maximum Time from Collection to Testing	
CG4+ 	2 months	Test first for accurate gases. Blood gas syringe only	ASAP Lactate invalid >15 mins	
CHEM8+ or creatinine 		Blood gas syringe or Lithium heparin tube  	30 minutes iCa invalid >10 mins	
Troponin I 				
beta-hCG 				
BNP (use EDTA) 				Use EDTA blood only
INR 				FINGERPRICK test only. Use first drop of blood.


i-STAT Quick Guide: Part II - Performing a Patient Test



Pre-Testing:

1. Attach the patient's ID label to the tube or syringe
2. Check cartridge expiry before testing

Testing:

1. Remove the i-STAT from its cradle and place on a flat surface for testing.
2. Turn the i-STAT on and press "2" for i-STAT cartridge. Scan (or enter) your operator ID.
3. Enter your patient's MRN – and repeat entry when requested.
4. SCAN in the lot number barcode on the cartridge pouch.
5. Carefully remove cartridge from its pouch to a clean, flat surface.
6. Expel the first 2 drops, mix the sample thoroughly before adding to EACH cartridge.
7. Promptly close cartridge firmly and insert gently into the i-STAT.
8. During testing, press the  button & enter the sample type used eg. 1.ART, 2.VEN
Then enter the patient's Date of Birth in Field 1 as 8 digits (eg. 01052008).
9. When test complete, remove cartridge and return instrument to its cradle to print results.



- Retest to confirm any PoCT INR result >4.0
A laboratory INR should be performed on confirmed PoCT INR results > 4.0
- PoCT INR is not a suitable test for snakebite assessment (NSW Health policy guideline GL2014_005)
- For incorrect MRN entries or usage of MRN 999999999, you must complete the "Unknown/Incorrect Patient Correction Form" and fax/email to your PoCT Coordinator (details on the form)