

## pH Nitrazine Testing using pHizatest® Paper

### *Fast Facts*

#### - Reagent Requirements

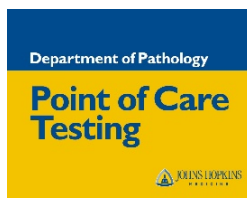
	pHizatest® Paper	pH Buffer (5.0, 7.0)
<b>Storage Temperature</b>	15° - 30°C	15° - 30°C
<b>Stability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Unopened</u>: manufacturer’s expiration date.</li> <li>- <u>Opened</u>: 6 months or manufacturer’s expiration date, whichever comes first.</li> </ul>	Manufacturer’s expiration date
<b>Handling Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Record “<i>Open and Expiration Dates</i>” on each box once opened.</li> <li>- <i>Do not</i> use beyond manufacturer’s expiration date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Record “<i>Open Date</i>” on each bottle once opened.</li> <li>- <i>Do not</i> use beyond manufacturer’s expiration date.</li> </ul>
<b>Handling Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect from exposure to direct sunlight, and acid or alkaline fumes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Store tightly capped when not in use.</li> </ul>

#### - Testing Procedural Notes

- QC must be performed at least weekly, and when a new box of pHizatest® paper or bottle of pH buffer is opened.
  - Refer to the QC log for acceptable results for each level of QC.
- If patient sample is not to be directly introduced to the pHizatest® paper, the specimen collection container must be properly labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers.
  - All samples must be tested immediately following collection.
- Gloves must be worn at all times while handling pHizatest® paper.
  - After applying pH buffer (QC) or patient sample, immediately match the color on the pH paper to the closest color on the Color Chart in the pHizatest® paper dispenser.
    - Colors are unstable and results must be interpreted within 60 seconds.
- pH values of 3.8 to 4.5 are indicative of vaginal fluid; pH values of 7.0 to 7.5 indicative of amniotic fluid.
- pHizatest® paper may not be used for pH determinations or urine and/or gastric fluid.
- For a full list of limitations and common interferences affecting this test, refer to POCTW008.
  - False Positives may be caused by soap, a rise in pH due to infections, and other factors.
  - False Negatives may be caused by too little fluid being tested or prolonged leaking of fluid.

#### - Operator Competency

- *Initial Training and Competency*: Must be completed with a POCT Office-approved Super User/Trainer.
  - MyLearning module and quiz, QC, and Initial Training and Competency form must be completed.
- *Annual Competency*: Must be completed by all testing personnel, including Super Users/Trainers.
  - Both levels of QC must be completed and documented successfully at least once.
  - Applicable MyLearning module and quiz completed with a Passing score.



- **Troubleshooting Failed QC Results**

- Confirm the pHizatest® paper and QC buffer(s) are not past applicable expiration date(s).
  - If, after confirming dates and repeating the test, results still fail, open a new bottle of pH buffer and repeat the test.
  - If this repeat fails, open a new box of pHizatest® paper and repeat using the new pH buffer.
  - If this repeat fails, cease testing immediately and contact the POCT Office (Resources).
    - Document all failures and Corrective Action steps on the QC log.

- **Resources**

- POCT Office available 24/7 for any additional assistance that may be needed.
  - Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30-15:30 (CMSC SB207)
  - POCT Office General Phone Line: 5-2645
  - Email [POCTGroup@exchange.johnshopkins.edu](mailto:POCTGroup@exchange.johnshopkins.edu)
  - After Hours use CORUS: Pathology Staff – POCT Consult (covered 24/7 for critical needs)