**i-STAT analyser use for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19**

**Initial preparation**

* Perform hand hygiene with alcohol based hand rub and don PPE as per HPS guidance\*. This applies to staff member taking the sample and staff member transporting sample and performing analysis on i-STAT.

**In the patients area**

* Take sample as normal into a heparinised syringe
* Inspect the sample for air bubbles - if present, expel these by gently depressing the plunger, with a gauze swab held at the opening of the tube to catch any blood expelled.
* Cap the syringe once the air bubbles are removed
* Once sample is ready, drop it carefully into a clear plastic specimen bag held at the edge of the patient cubicle by trained i-STAT user performing analysis. Neither the sample nor your gloves should touch the outside of the bag
* Dispose of the sharp and other parts of the packaging in appropriate clinical waste stream in the patient cubicle

**Taking sample to i-STAT analyser**

* The sample is now in a sealed plastic specimen bag. This can therefore be taken to the designated i-STAT analyser.

**Analysing the sample on the i-STAT**

* Prior to opening the bag put the patient’s details into the i-Stat as follows**:**
* Press the power button to turn on i-STAT
* Press **2** for i-STAT cartridge
* Scan operator ID
* Scan patient ID
* Scan cartridge
* Position patient demographic label next to i-STAT, to denote the i-STAT is in use

**Note: i-STAT should remain on a flat surface and not be moved during analysis.**

* Open specimen bag
* Mix sample 8 times between the palms of your hands
* Discard 3 drops of blood to waste with a gauze swab held at the opening of the tube to catch any blood expelled

**Application of Sample**

This sequence **must** be followed:

* Place the cartridge in a cardboard drug tray

**Note:If application of blood is not immediate the sample must be remixed (8 times between the palms of the hands) before analysis.**

* Take the cap off the sample and place in the same drug tray. Apply blood to CG4 or CHEM 8 cartridge and seal cartridge.
* Recap sample and place on drug tray
* Insert cartridge to begin analysis.
* Once analysis is complete discard test cartridge immediately into sharps bin. A further test cartridge may be performed at this point if required, remembering to mix the sample 8 times between the palms of the hands before application.
* Once complete discard blood syringe and cartridge into sharps bin

**Note: If this sequence is not followed, there may be a risk of incorrect results being produced.**

**Post Procedure / Decontamination**

* Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene (wash hands or hand hygiene with alcohol based hand rub)
* Using clean gloves, clean machine with Clinell sanitising wipe. The device **must** be cleaned prior to use on another patient
* Visible contamination - the device will need to be decontaminated immediately after use if there is visible contamination e.g. blood. For blood apply 10, 000 ppm of chlorine solution
* Remove PPE and perform Hand Hygiene
* Once a day or as required, after decontamination, the i-Stat should be docked in MAU for upload of results to InfoHQ IT system for audit trail

\* DROPLET (RESPIRATORY) PRECAUTIONS

• Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed

• Disposable gloves

• Fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or full face visor if splashes anticipated