

# Preparing Samples For Use On The IDEXX Catalyst Dx\* Chemistry Analyzer

The Catalyst Dx\* Chemistry Analyzer is designed to analyze serum, plasma, whole blood, or urine samples. To ensure maximum accuracy, it is important that you always prepare the sample properly when analyzing blood chemistry parameters.

Please refer to your *Catalyst Dx Chemistry Analyzer Operator's Guide* for detailed instructions.



## Whole Blood Sample (with a Catalyst\* Lithium Heparin Whole Blood Separator)

- Remove the green cap from the lithium heparin whole blood separator to prepare it for sample collection.
- Immediately** after sample collection (to avoid clotting), dispense 0.7 cc of **untreated** (no additive) whole blood into the lithium heparin whole blood separator using an untreated syringe with the needle removed.  
**Tip:** Use the fill line on the separator to ensure proper fill volume.
- Gently swirl (**do not invert or shake**) the whole blood separator at least 5 times to mix the sample with the anticoagulant.
- Follow the on-screen instructions for loading the sample and slides into the sample drawer.  
**Caution: Ensure that the cap is removed before loading the separator into the analyzer.**

**Note:** Heparinized samples can be used in the lithium heparin whole blood separator.

## Whole Blood Separator Recommendations

Fill to lowest line on separator (0.7 cc)

Whole Blood

## Plasma Sample

- Use the appropriate lithium heparin tube.  
**DO NOT USE EDTA OR SODIUM HEPARIN.**
- Use the appropriate sample collection device.
- Draw the sample gently. Transfer if necessary! Use the correct blood-to-lithium heparin ratio.
- Gently invert the sample for **30 seconds** to mix.
- Centrifuge the sample on the Hard Spin or Hematocrit setting for 120 seconds (IDEXX StatSpin\* only) or refer to your operator's guide for centrifugation settings and times.
- Transfer 300 µL of sample to a Catalyst\* sample cup. See "Sample Cup Recommendations" below.
- Follow the on-screen instructions for loading the sample and slides into the sample drawer.

\*When using an evacuated tube, such as a Vacutainer\* tube, allow the sample to draw naturally into the tube by vacuum.

## Serum Sample

- Use the appropriate serum separator tube.
- Use the appropriate sample collection device.
- Draw the sample gently. Transfer if necessary!\*
- Let the sample clot for a minimum of **20 minutes**.
- Centrifuge the sample on the Hard Spin or Hematocrit setting for 120 seconds (IDEXX StatSpin only) or refer to your operator's guide for centrifugation settings and times.
- Transfer 300 µL of sample to a Catalyst sample cup. See "Sample Cup Recommendations" below.
- Follow the on-screen instructions for loading the sample and slides into the sample drawer.

\*When using an evacuated tube, such as a Vacutainer\* tube, allow the sample to draw naturally into the tube by vacuum.

## Urine Sample for UPC Ratio

- Once you have obtained the urine sample through cystocentesis (recommended), a catheter, or free-catch method, transfer the urine sample to a disposable sample tube.
- Centrifuge the sample on the Urine Sediment setting for 45 seconds (IDEXX StatSpin only) or refer to your user's manual for centrifugation settings and times.
- Use a transfer pipette to transfer 300 µL of supernatant urine to a Catalyst sample cup. See "Sample Cup Recommendations" below.
- Dispense 300 µL of Catalyst\* Urine P:C Diluent into a Catalyst sample cup.
- Follow the on-screen instructions for loading UPC materials into the tip/diluent drawer(s).
- Follow the on-screen instructions for loading the sample and slides into the sample drawer.

## Sample Cup Recommendations

300 µL

Correct    Incorrect    Incorrect

When transferring sample into a sample cup, ensure there are no bubbles present.

Serum, Plasma, and Urine

## IDEXX Technical Support

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