

Using the Afinion CRP Tests – Instructions

How to use do the test using Afinion analyser:

- Wear medical gloves.
- Open the foil pouch immediately before use. **Once opened, the cartridge should be used within 10 minutes.** Remove the cartridge by the handle (don't touch the lower part of the cartridge).
- Use a lancet to firmly prick a side of a middle or ring finger of a patient's non-dominant hand.
- Take out the sampling device (capillary) straight up from the cartridge.
- Hold the sampling device horizontally but slightly higher than the patient's finger and fill the capillary with whole blood (2.5 micro litre). It is not possible to overfill the capillary.
- Place the sampling device/capillary immediately in the test cartridge.
- **Once the blood is in the cartridge, it must be loaded into the analyser within one minute.**
- Press the orange icon on the screen of the analyser. The lid opens automatically.
- Load the cartridge on the Afinion analyser with the barcode facing left.
- Close the lid manually.
- If the patient ID function is enabled, press the orange icon and enter the patient ID. Press 'enter' icon to confirm.
- The machine automatically starts analysing the sample and displays the result.
- Write down the result. The last 500 results are stored in the memory of the analyser.
- Touch the green icon to accept the result. The lid opens automatically.
- Remove and immediately discard the cartridge in the standard clinical waste bin.
- Manually close the lid.

Practicalities:

- **Analyser set-up (watch a [video online](#) – go to 'module 2'):**
 - The analyser needs to put on a horizontal space at room temperature, and it needs to be plugged in.
 - Use the on/off button on top of the analyser to switch it on. Remember to first switch it off before unplugging the analyser from the power socket (e.g. before moving it).
 - It takes a couple of minutes to warm up during which time it performs its own self-checks and calibration. There is nothing else required to calibrate or set up the analyser.
 - It is recommended that the analyser is turned on at the start, and turned off at the end, of the day. It has a safe/standby mode when not in use. The screen saver will activate after 3 minutes of non-use; to activate the analyser tap the screen with your finger.
 - When you first set up the analyser, tap the 'main menu' (bottom) icon, followed by a 'configuration' icon. Set the correct date and time.
 - To enable the use of Patient IDs when testing, enter the patient ID configuration and tick the bottom option. To enable the use of Operator IDs

(recommended), enter the Operator ID configuration and tick the middle or bottom option. You may want to consider and agree as a practice what IDs you will use; for example, you may want to use your initials as the Operator IDs and patient numbers (if available) as your Patient IDs. These can be deleted from the analyser's memory before returning the analyser at the end of the study.

- **Cartridges:**
 - Cartridges can be stored refrigerated (2-8°C) until the expiry date or at room temperature (15-25°C) for 4 weeks.
 - If cartridges are stored refrigerated, they need to be removed from the fridge at least 15 min before use.
 - **Write the date of removal from the fridge on the foil pouch of the cartridge.**
 - Once the foil pouch is opened, the test cartridge must be **used within 10 min.**
 - Dispose the used cartridges in standard medical waste bin.

- **Quality Control (QC) (watch [video online](#) – go to 'module 7', from 3:48 min):**
 - Is it advised that QC checks are performed **at least once per month** as well as: anytime an unexpected test result is obtained; with each shipment of new test kits; when training new operators in correct use of the analyser.
 - Use the Afinion CRP Control kits provided.
 - QC controls can be used directly from the refrigerator.
 - Once the vial is opened, it has to be used within a month. Write a date of opening the vial.
 - Mix the control by inverting the vial 8-10 times before use. Fill the capillary from the sampling device (from a CRP cartridge). Complete the analysis as with the patient's sample, except – touch the blue icon (rather than the top orange one) to run a control test. The measured value should be within an acceptable range as stated in the Afinion CRP Control package insert. If the result is outside this range, contact the Abbott technical support (see below). Keep a record of all quality control results.
 - Read more about QC in the [Afinion CRP Package Insert](#) (p. 11) and the video with instructions ([module 7](#), QC starts from 3:48 min).

Support:

Contact the Abbott technical support:

- Online (<https://www.alere.com/en/home/product-details/afinion2-analyzer.html>)
- By [email](mailto:EME.TechSupport@rapiddx.abbott.com) (EME.TechSupport@rapiddx.abbott.com)
- By telephone: 0161 483 5884 (option 3).

If you wish to order more CRP cartridges as part of the STEP-UP research study, [email](#) the study team at: antibioticoptimisation@phc.ox.ac.uk