



Clinical Practice Procedures: Assessment/hCG urine pregnancy testing

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Date	August, 2022
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to hCG urine pregnancy testing
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
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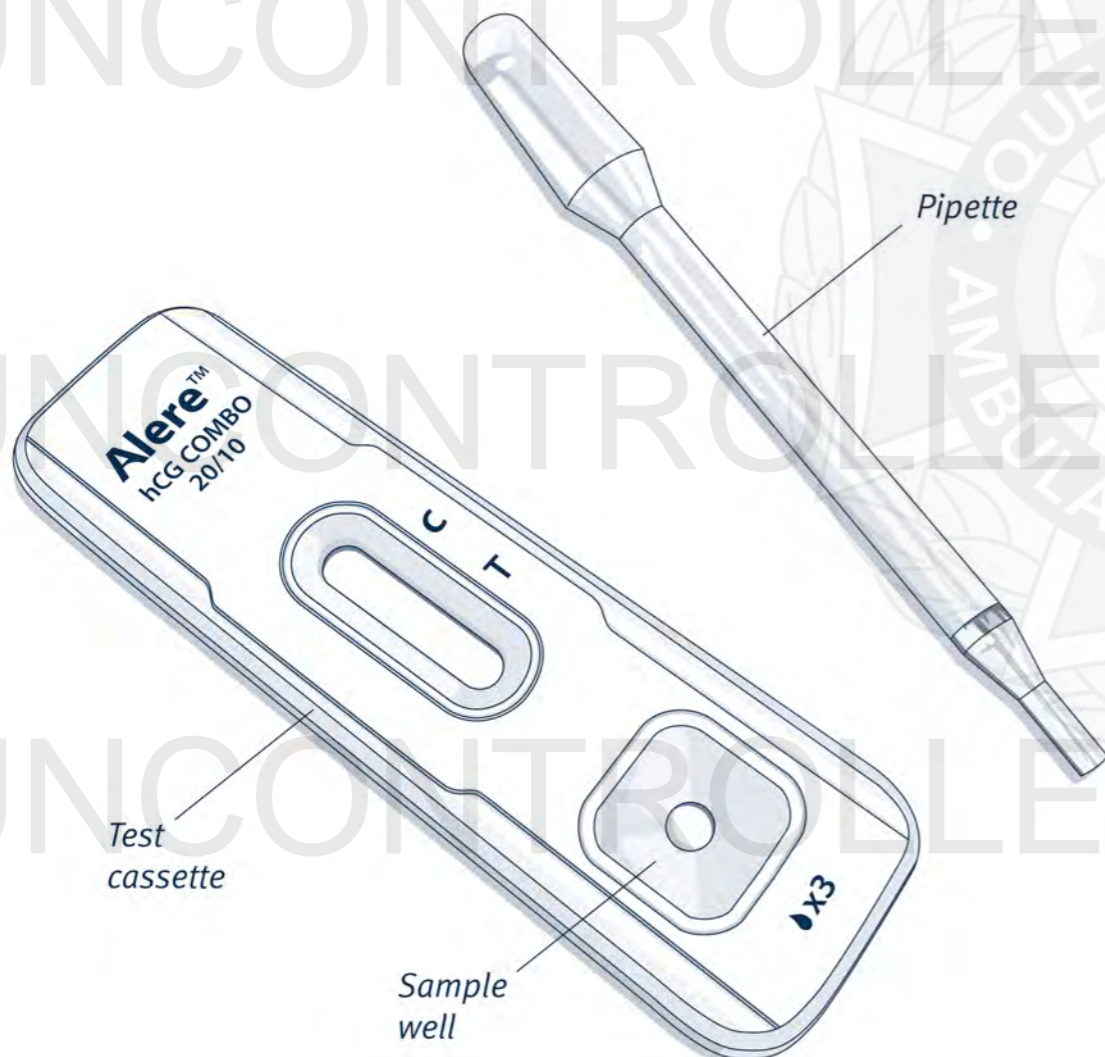
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hCG urine pregnancy testing

August, 2022

Point of care urine pathology is a highly sensitive and specific assessment adjunct for determining pregnancy status. Briefly, this process detects the presence of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), a hormone produced by the developing placenta following uterine implantation. Typically, hCG can be detected 7 to 10 days following initial conception, thereby rendering it a highly sensitive and specific prognostic tool for pregnancy detection.

The Alere™ hCG Combo (20/10 mIU/mL)^[1], is a single-use rapid chromatographic immunoassay that detects hCG in urine to produce a binary positive or negative result. This assay operates by adding a small amount of urine specimen to a testing cassette and observing the formation of coloured lines.



Indication

- Female patients aged 16 to 55 with abdominal pain/discomfort or P.V. bleeding, to assist with determining the most appropriate disposition to a health facility destination.
- For use by specifically trained and authorised clinicians involved in the Mt Morgan POC Pregnancy Assessment Pilot only.

Contraindications

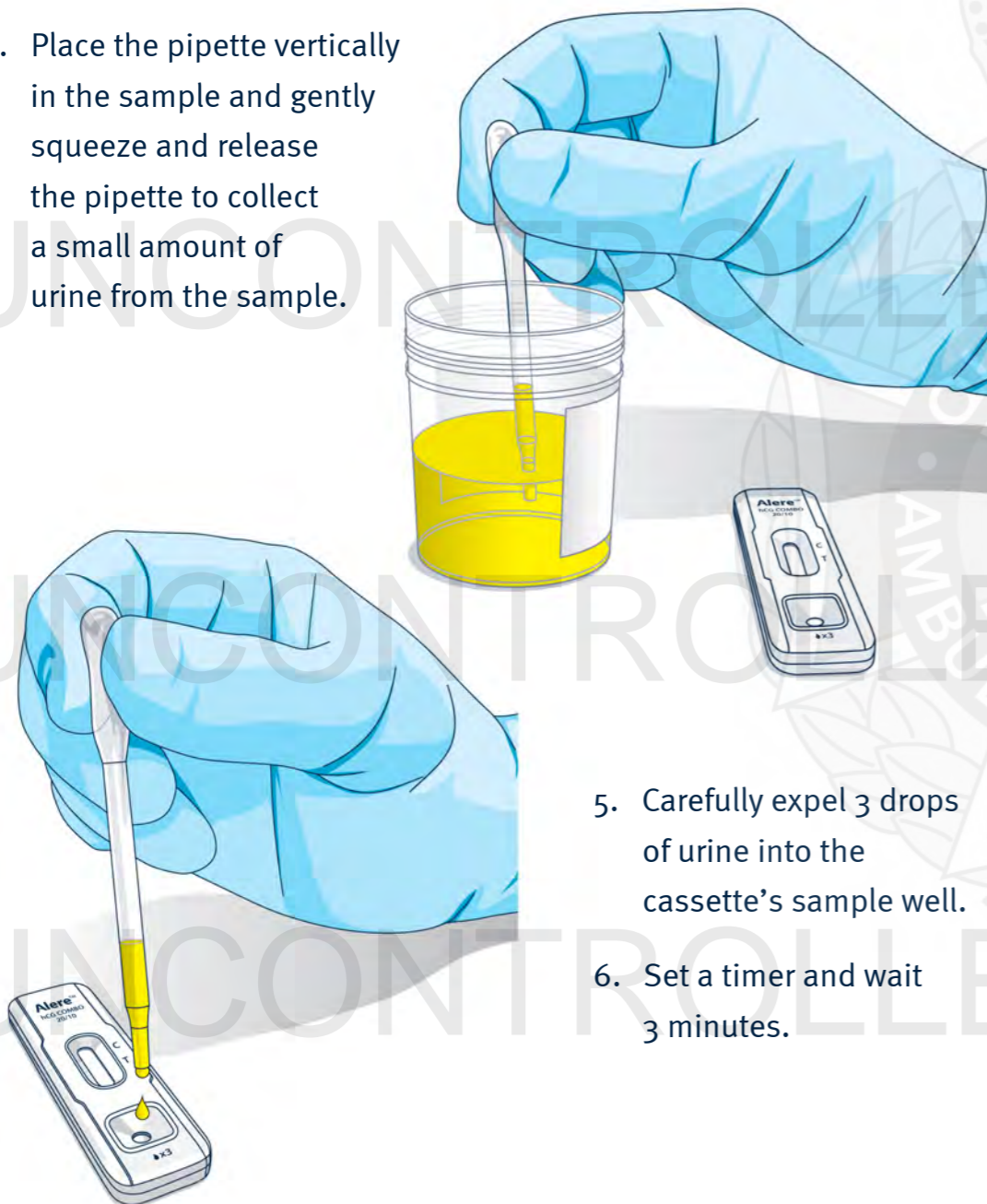
- Patients with known pregnancy
- Patients less than 16 OR greater than 55 years of age
- Competing clinical priorities

Precautions

- Diluted urine samples may not contain representative levels of hCG and may provide a false negative result.

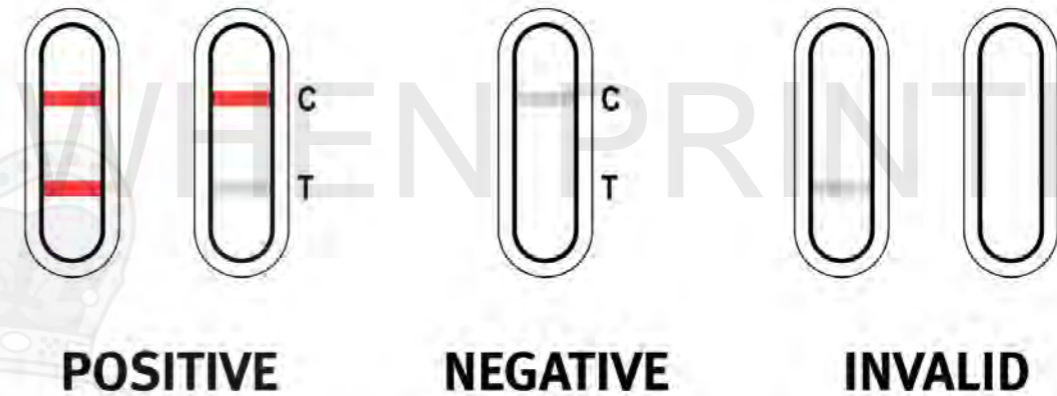
Procedure⁽¹⁾ – hCG urine pregnancy testing

1. Obtain a fresh urine sample in a sterile specimen container – urine samples containing visible precipitates should be discarded.
2. Remove the test cassette and pipette from the sealed package.
3. Place the cassette on a firm flat surface in close proximity to the urine sample.
4. Place the pipette vertically in the sample and gently squeeze and release the pipette to collect a small amount of urine from the sample.



5. Carefully expel 3 drops of urine into the cassette's sample well.
6. Set a timer and wait 3 minutes.

7. Interpret results within 3–4 minutes.



8. If the test result is invalid, repeat the procedure from step 2, ensuring the procedure is carefully followed.
9. Complete the online [\[redacted\]](#) for all POC pregnancy test cases.

+ Additional information

- The Alera™ hCG Combo must be stored between 2–30 degrees Celsius – the test cassette and pipette must remain in the sealed pouch until immediately before use.
- The Alera™ hCG Combo Cassette provided a presumptive diagnosis for pregnancy only – they are not a substitute for hospital POC testing.
- False positive results are relatively uncommon and false negative results are also relatively uncommon once a pregnancy is established.
- This procedure is limited to 2 attempts to achieve a valid result.
- All remaining urine is to be discarded in a flushable toilet.