# P0179 SeraQ Elecsys

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IVD

REF P0179

The kit insert contains a detailed protocol and should be read carefully before testing the run control to ensure optimal performance.

## Table of contents


Intended Use ..... 3
Key to Symbols Used ..... 3
Principle of method ..... 3
Traceability of antigen and antibody concentrations ..... 4
Materials Provided ..... 4
Materials not provided ..... 5
Storage Instructions ..... 5
Warning and precautions ..... 5
Reagent preparation ..... 6
Performance Characteristics ..... 6
Expected assay response values on run control ..... 8
Interpretation of Results ..... 8
Limitations ..... 12
References ..... 13
Revision history ..... 14

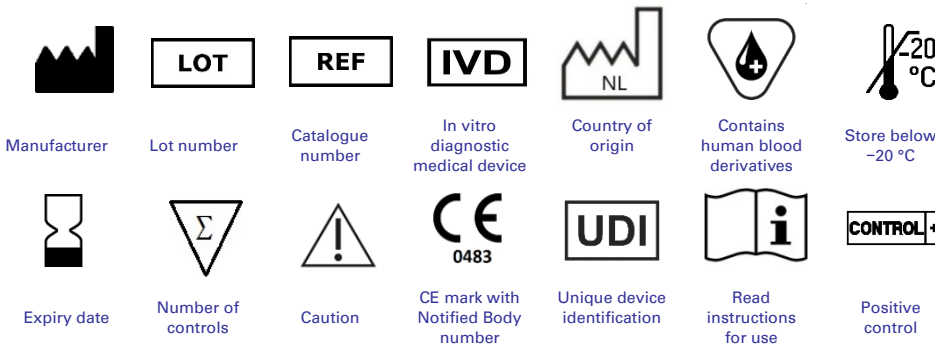
## Intended Use

P0179 SeraQ Elecsys is intended to be used on the Roche cobas® platform in diagnostic and blood screening laboratories as an external run control in combination with the assays for the detection of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) and antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus types 1 and 2 (anti-HIV 1/2) (see Table 1). P0179 SeraQ Elecsys is a multi-marker mixture of inactivated HBsAg, anti-HCV and anti-HIV-1 standards in defibrinated plasma giving a low reactive result in the Roche Elecsys® assays. The run control is intended for repeated testing in consecutive runs of the immunoassays over time by trained laboratory workers. By comparison of the sample to cut off (S/CO) values for the three markers found on P0179 SeraQ Elecsys one can monitor whether the analytical sensitivity of test runs is consistent. The run control should not be used to replace internal controls or calibrators in the test kits. The test result on the run control should not be used to reject the run or delay the release of test results on donor or patient samples.

**Table 1. Test kits and platform covered by this run control**

| Equipment | Agent | Assay |
|---|---|---|
| cobas e immunoassay analyzers | Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)<br>Anti-hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV)<br>Anti-human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (anti-HIV-1) | Roche Elecsys® HBsAg II<br>Roche Elecsys® Anti-HCV II<br>Roche Elecsys® HIV combi PT (Ag+Ab) |

## Key to Symbols Used




Manufacturer | Lot number | Catalogue number | In vitro diagnostic medical device | Country of origin | Contains human blood derivatives | Store below –20 °C

Expiry date | Number of controls | Caution | CE mark with Notified Body number | Unique device identification | Read instructions for use | Positive control

## Principle of method

A series of SeraQ multi-marker run controls has been designed for monitoring HBsAg, anti-HCV and anti-HIV-1 test performance. The run control tubes are barcoded and can be placed at random positions in sample racks of the blood screening device. The tubes are comparable in size to donor blood collection tubes. The run controls are designed to mimic naturally occurring serum specimens with low reactivity for HBsAg, anti-HCV and anti-HIV-1. The analytical sensitivity of test kits from different manufacturers varies and therefore for each combination of test kits a separate multi-marker run control has been designed. This SeraQ run control family includes the product P0179 SeraQ Elecsys for which the composition is optimised for use with the Roche Elecsys® test system. The P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control is designed to generate assay response values (i.e. S/CO ratios) for HBsAg, anti-HCV and anti-HIV-1 positioned in the low positive range of

the assays. Routine use of external run controls enables laboratories to monitor day-to-day test performance and *in-vitro* medical diagnostic device (IVD) reagent lot variation.

## Traceability of antigen and antibody concentrations

For each HBsAg, anti-HIV-1 and anti-HCV, an internal serum standard has been established[1] from which reference panels and run controls are prepared by gravimetrically recorded dilution steps. The undiluted S0001 standard for HBsAg is derived from the same purified heat-inactivated source material as is used for preparation of the 2nd WHO HBsAg adw2 (00/588) International Standard (IS)[2,3]. Studies with the later established WHO international hepatitis B virus genotype reference panel showed that the heat-inactivation of HBsAg in the International Standard had little impact on the detectability in immuno-assays[4]. The HBsAg concentration in the run control has been set at 0.16 IU/mL based on the dilution factor of the HBsAg standard[1,2]. During manufacturing of SeraQ run controls the measurable HBsAg concentration reduces to a certain extent depending on the test method. One IU of heat inactivated HBsAg was found to be equivalent to 0.67 nanogram (ng) of HBsAg when historically calibrated against the first HBsAg standard established by the Paul Ehrlich Institute (1st PEI HBsAg standard), comparable to conversion factors of 0.58 and 0.71 reported in WHO collaborative studies[2,3,5]. The S0001 HBsAg standard used for preparation of the SeraQ run controls has been instrumental in studies to establish the length of the pre-HBsAg infectious window period and the infectivity of HBsAg positive blood without detectable hepatitis B virus (HBV)-DNA[6,7]. No unitage could be assigned to the internal standards for anti-HCV and anti-HIV-1 since international reference preparations are not available. The consistent concentration of the analytes in consecutive SeraQ run control batches is guaranteed by batch release control testing against a reference batch of the run control kept frozen at −30 °C. These reference batches are derived from the same undiluted internal standards that are used for manufacturing of the SeraQ run controls.

## Materials Provided

The run control contains human serum with 0.01% (w/v) Thimerosal as preservative and is provided in two formats as detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Description of P0179 SeraQ Elecsys kit formats and contents

| Cat. Code | GTIN/UDI-DI code^ | Quantity run control | Tube size | Claimed sample volume | Secondary packaging |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P0179/01 | 8718719833667 | 60 x 2.0 mL | 10 mL | 1.9 mL (+overfill) | 60 tube rack in box |
| P0179/02 | 8718719833674 | 10 x 2.0 mL | 10 mL | 1.9 mL (+overfill) | 10 tubes in bag |

^ Global Trade Item Number = Unique Device Identification - Device Identifier (UDI-DI) code

The basic UDI-DI code (or Global Model Number (GMN)) of the P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control is 871871983P0179F7.

To facilitate automation the run control is presented in a polypropylene tube with screw cap comparable in size to vacutainer tubes used for donor sample collection. In addition, the label includes a barcode identifying the product, sequential batch number and multi-marker: MM3. The barcode of each run control tube can be read by the Roche cobas instruments.

## Materials not provided

Pipetting devices in IVD test systems, a vortex instrument for thorough mixing of samples prior to use and a water bath of 37 °C for quickly thawing of run control are not provided.

## Storage Instructions

Store unopened tubes at or below −20 °C. For each cobas instrument thaw one run control tube in a water bath of 37 °C until ice clot has disappeared. After thawing, the run control tubes should be stored at 2 °C to 8 °C for no longer than one week.

## Warning and precautions

P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run controls are prepared from serum standards, in which virus has been inactivated by validated methods applied in the plasma industry[1]. Infectivity and inactivation data have been analysed to demonstrate absence of residual infectivity of HBV, HCV and HIV-1 in the run controls[1]. The serum matrix in the run controls has been tested for infectious disease markers by serologic and molecular screening methods. However, no screening strategy can offer complete assurance that products derived from human blood cannot transmit undetected infectious agents. The run control should only be used by trained laboratory workers who are aware of the potential risk of infectious agents in human serum samples and take the necessary precautions. In case of a serious incident related to the use of the run control, report it immediately to BioQControl's technical support group (tel: +31 (0)72 2020 730; e-mail: info@bioqcontrol.com) and to the competent authority of the country/EU Member State where the incident occurred.

- SeraQ run controls should be handled with the normal preventive measures in a serology laboratory[8,9].
- This product contains human plasma and traces of biological source material of non-human origin (bovine thrombin).
- The use of the run control in other assay configurations should be avoided and is not supported by the manufacturer.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling samples.
- Do not eat drink, smoke or apply cosmetics in areas where specimens are handled.
- Do not pipette by mouth.
- If skin or mucous membrane exposure occurs, immediately wash the area with copious amounts of water.
- Disinfect spills using a 0.5% hypochlorite solution (1:10 v/v household bleach) or equivalent disinfectant.
- Dispose unused or spilled materials according to the normal practices for biological waste disposal in your institution.
- If precipitates are visible, mix the run controls for 2 minutes thoroughly using a vortex instrument.
- Do not use run controls beyond one week storage at 2-8 °C.
- Store run controls in an upright position.
- Validation of the diagnostic test results must be based on the specifications set by the manufacturer of the test kit and not be influenced by the test result on the run control.
- Matrix effects may reduce S/CO values in assays with a relatively high input volume when residual volumes in the run control tubes become low, even within the 7-day

storage period. Use fresh tubes when volumes are low and monitor results carefully toward the end of the usage week.

- Do not pool residual volumes from different tubes or usage periods. Pooling may combine materials with different evaporation levels and matrix effects that compromise assay performance. These matrix effects increase as residual volumes decrease.
- Cap tubes immediately after use and return to storage at 2-8 °C to minimize evaporation.

## Reagent preparation

- For first use of the run control thaw the tube quickly in a water bath at 37 °C.
- Mix gently during thawing until contents are just thawed.
- Immediately after ice clot has disappeared remove the run control tube from the water bath.
- Before testing allow the run control tube to adapt to room temperature.
- Mix the run control tube thoroughly prior to use using a vortex instrument.
- Place the run control tube at the specified positions in the sample racks of the cobas system for regular donor or patient samples.
- Test on the Roche cobas platform with the assays mentioned in Table 1 according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Recap and store the opened tube immediately after use at 2-8 °C (see storage instructions).

## Performance Characteristics

SeraQ run controls have been designed by examination of the response curves on dilutions of the internal standards and as such relate to the analytical sensitivity of immunoassays. In the following paragraphs the essential performance characteristics of SeraQ run controls are presented.

### Dose response and analytical sensitivity

By analysing standard dilution series the relationship between S/CO values and concentration of the analyte can be established[10,11]. Plotting Log transformed Elecsys S/CO values against Log dilution of analyte using linear regression analysis enables calculation of correlation coefficients. Figure 1a-c shows linear dose response relations in the Roche Elecsys® HBsAg, anti-HCV and HIV-Ag/Ab assays on logarithmic scales of dilution factor and S/CO values.

**Figure 1a.** Dose response in Elecsys HBsAg II assay. HBsAg S/CO values are plotted against dilution on logarithmic scales ($r^2$ = 0.99).

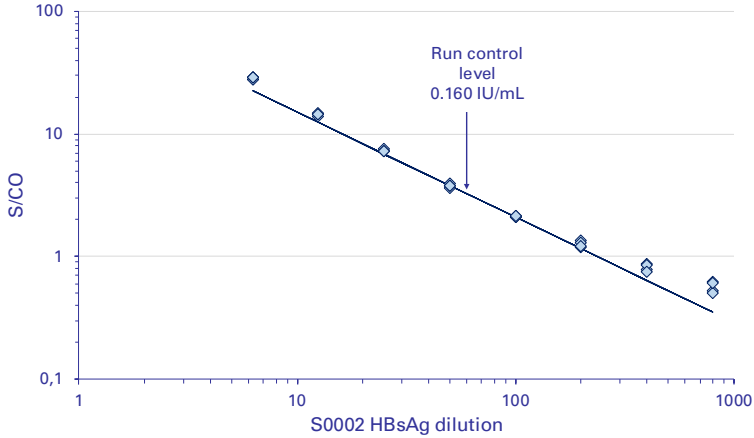



**Figure 1b.** Dose response in Elecsys anti-HCV II assay. Anti-HCV S/CO values are plotted against dilution on logarithmic scales ($r^2$ = 0.99).

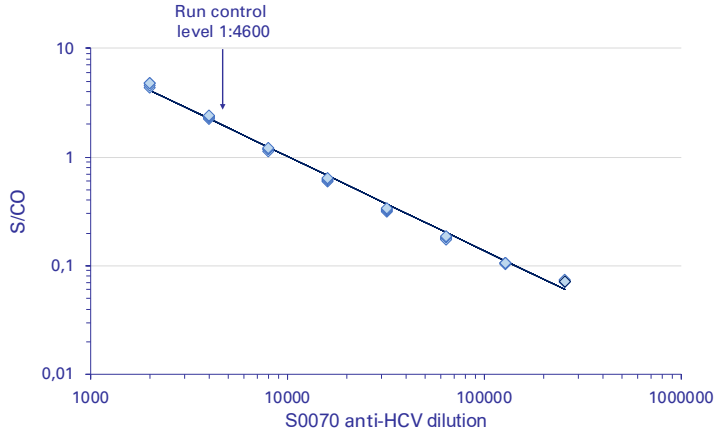
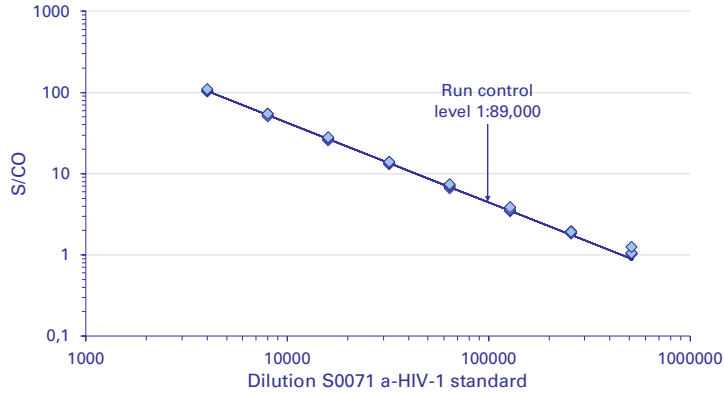


**Figure 1c.** Dose response in Elecsys HIV-Ag/Ab assay. HIV-Ab/Ag S/CO values are plotted against dilution on logarithmic scales ($r^2$ = 0.999). Run control level was originally set at 1:200,000 dilution of the S0071 standard but was later changed to 1:89,000.




## Expected assay response values on run control

The expected results on the P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control are as follows:

1. HBsAg range S/CO ratio: 3.2 – 5.7
2. Anti-HCV range S/CO ratio: 2.6 – 3.7
3. Anti-HIV range S/CO ratio: 2.7 – 3.9

Each Elecsys reagent lot appears to have its own dose response curve and distribution of S/CO values on SeraQ run controls. This depends on the analytical sensitivity of the Roche Elecsys reagent lots that are in use. Thus, it cannot be guaranteed that the assay response values will always fall within these ranges. P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control serves as an independent standard for monitoring consistent analytical sensitivity of Elecsys reagent lots over time.

## Interpretation of Results

### Calculations

Subsequent test runs can be analysed by appropriate statistical approaches on the S/CO ratios obtained on the external control samples. A software system (DataQ Analytics) is available via the website www.bioqcontrol.com for entering S/CO values and generating a statistical report with the following calculations for preparing a Levey-Jennings Chart:

#### *Transforming assay response values*

To obtain the test kit batch specific reference values for each marker, an initial collection of at least 30 consecutive test results is required. Upon collecting additional data, the chart characteristics may be updated.

- The S/CO values for HBsAg, anti-HCV and anti-HIV are 'log normally' distributed. For the Elecsys assays one should use the logarithm of S/CO ratios for calculation of the geometric mean and predictive interval (pred. int.) as follows:
  - Calculate from each measurement the log S/CO value.
  - Calculate average and standard deviation (SD) on this log transformed values; Average (log) and Standard Deviation (log).
  - Calculate the (geometric) mean in S/CO ratio by taking the anti-log value of the Average (log).
  - Calculate Student-t-values belonging to the 95% and 99% pred. int. for different number of observations (n) (Table 3).
  - Calculate the 95% and 99% pred. int. (log) as follows:
    99% Lower limit (log): Average (log) – (99%) Student-t-Value x SD (log) x $\sqrt{(1 + 1/n)}$
    95% Lower limit (log): Average (log) – (95%) Student-t-Value x SD (log) x $\sqrt{(1 + 1/n)}$
    95% Upper limit (log): Average (log) + (95%) Student-t-Value x SD (log) x $\sqrt{(1 + 1/n)}$
    99% Upper limit (log): Average (log) + (99%) Student-t-Value x SD (log) x $\sqrt{(1 + 1/n)}$
  - Take the anti-log values for calculating the predictive limits in S/CO ratio. To visualize the individual S/CO values make a Levey-Jennings control chart on a linear scale. S/CO ratios plotted on a linear scale depict the upper 95% and 99% predictive limits at greater distance from the geometric mean S/CO value than the lower predictive limits (see Figure 2).

**Table 3.** Relation of Student t value and numbers of runs (n) to calculate predictive intervals.

| Runs (n) | t-value at 95% pred. int. | t-value at 99% pred. int. |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | 2.262 | 3.250 |
| 20 | 2.093 | 2.861 |
| 30 | 2.045 | 2.756 |
| Infinite | 1.960 | 2.576 |

Infinite equals the normal distribution

***Levey-Jennings chart***

Table 4 summarizes the parameters of the Levey-Jennings charts in Figure 2a-c, which are based on the S/CO values for different Elecsys assays reported on one P0179 SeraQ Elecsys batch by one laboratory. The Levey-Jennings chart is a graph in which quality control results are plotted over subsequent test runs in time to give a visual indication when a laboratory test is or is not working well. The data points for each test run in the scatter plots of Figure 2a-c show the distance from the geometric mean S/CO ratio (green line in graph) which is the expected response level for the run control. The yellow and red lines represent the 95% and 99% predictive intervals, respectively. The data represents individual measurements of different instruments (of one laboratory in this example).

**Table 4.** Geometric mean S/CO value with 95% and 99% predictive intervals as found on one batch (B4179-008) of P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control in more than 3000 test runs by one laboratory.

| Assay | n | Geomean | 95% pred. int. | 99% pred. int. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elecsys HBsAg II | 3215 | 4.28 | 3.46 – 5.30 | 3.24 – 5.67 |
| Elecsys Anti-HCV II | 3164 | 3.15 | 2.79 – 3.55 | 2.69 – 3.68 |
| Elecsys HIV combi PT | 3106 | 3.27 | 2.88 – 3.71 | 2.77 – 3.86 |

**Figure 2.** Levey-Jennings charts of P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control results in Roche Elecsys assays from one laboratory. The average (green line) and 95% and 99% predictive intervals (yellow and red lines) are based on log transformed S/CO values as explained in the text.

**Figure 2a**. Elecsys HBsAg II assay

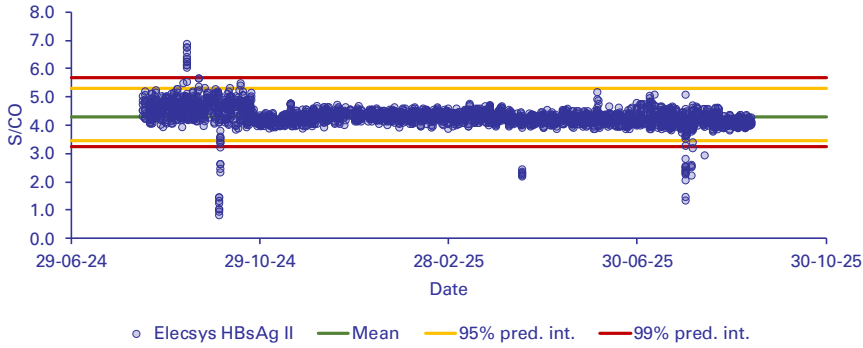



**Figure 2b.** Elecsys Anti-HCV II assay

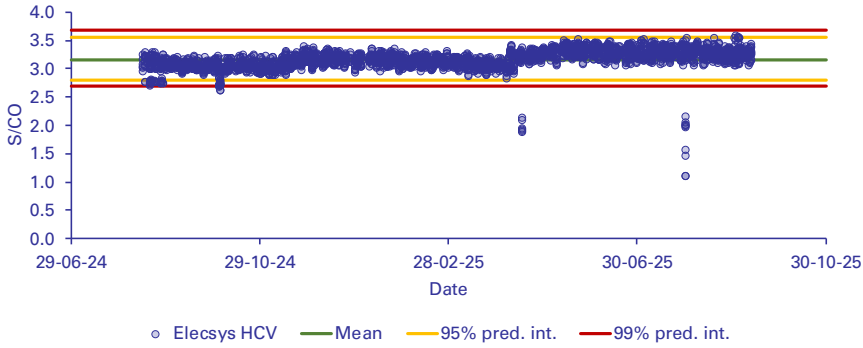
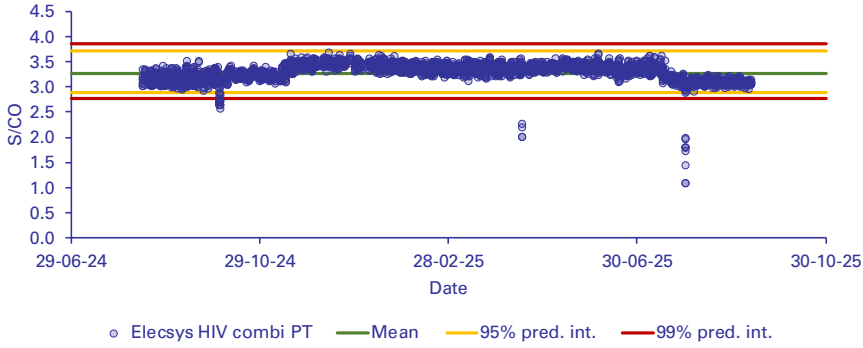



**Figure 2c**. Elecsys HIV combi PT (Ag+Ab) assay



### Interpretation

Knowing the 95% and 99% predictive intervals for generating a Levey-Jennings chart one can use Nelson rules[12] to interpret values outside the predictive limits for identifying trends and aberrant results. The statistical report generated by the DataQ Analytics system (on the website www.bioqcontrol.com) identifies these trends and outliers for the laboratory requesting the report.

- Negative or positive trends resulting from gradual changes in test performance and not reported by the internal kit controls and/or alert systems in the test robot, are indicative for a lack of maintenance, the need for recalibration of equipment, or degradation of reagents. These are systematic errors. In case a trend is recognised, the laboratory is encouraged to identify the root cause of the deviation.
- Aberrant results like a negative response on the run control or a result outside the 99% predictive interval are indicative for incidental errors that need further investigation to identify the root cause. The identification of the root cause of aberrant results is beyond the scope of the intended use of the run controls.
- Differences between S/CO values of laboratories could be attributed to different reagent lots or run control batches that are in use. The statistical report that can be obtained from the DataQ Analytics system (available on www.bioqcontrol.com) compares the assay response values on different lab instruments, test reagent lots and run control batches.

### Variation in immunoassay reagent lots and run control batches

Variation in S/CO ratios on run controls reflects differences in analytical sensitivity between assay runs and reagent lots. Different batches of SeraQ run controls are prepared from the same serum standards. Therefore, the composition of the multi-marker run controls is consistent from batch to batch. Variance component analyses of results obtained with other SeraQ run controls have previously shown that test reagent lots are a larger source of variation in S/CO values than run control batches. Table 5 shows a comparison of Elecsys Anti-HCV II assay S/CO response values obtained with different reagent lots and one P0179 SeraQ Elecsys run control batch (B4179-008) tested by one laboratory (see also Figure 2b).

**Table 5.** Comparison of geometric mean anti-HCV S/CO values (and 95% confidence interval (CI)) on consecutive Elecsys Anti-HCV II reagent lots within P0179 SeraQ Elecsys batch B4179-008.

| P0179 batch | Elecsys reagent lot | n | Mean S/CO (95% CI) |
|---|---|---|---|
| B4179-008 | 283259 | 10 | 3.23 (3.20 - 3.27) |
| | 751851 | 128 | 3.03 (3.00 - 3.06) |
| | 768312 | 1947 | 3.09 (3.09 - 3.10) |
| | 823390 | 1079 | 3.26 (3.25 - 3.27) |

## Limitations

- SeraQ run controls were designed for monitoring the analytical performance of serologic test systems. They cannot be used to evaluate the diagnostic sensitivity of the assays.
- The run control must not be substituted for the mandatory controls or calibrators provided with IVD test kits for calculating the cut off and/or criteria for releasing test results.
- The response values on the run controls should not be used to release or reject the test run but can be used as an aid in the assessment of analytical performance.
- The expected S/CO values and 99% predictive intervals have been established with a limited number of Elecsys reagent lots. It cannot be guaranteed that S/CO values obtained with new reagent lots will always fall within these limits.
- Although the batch-to batch composition of SeraQ run controls is consistent some variation in the measurable potency of the serum standards in the run control batches cannot be avoided due to matrix effects and other manufacturing variables.

## References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## Revision history

| Date | Version | Description of change |
|---|---|---|
| November 2025 | V4.2 | Error in formula for calculations changed in chapter “Interpretation of results”. |
| March 2026 | V5.0 | Contact information added for reporting serious incidents in chapter “Warnings and precautions”.<br>Symbol for positive control added.<br>Performance data updated. |

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