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(121) INSULIN ASSAYS

Change to read:

INTRODUCTION

The most prominent manifestation of insulin activity, an abrupt decrease in blood glucose, was the basis for biologic assay from the time of its first clinical use. The ▲bio▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) assay, although relatively cumbersome, has the great merit of accurately reflecting the effect on the diabetic patient. The advent of practical yet sophisticated physicochemical methods (e.g., liquid chromatography) to measure insulin potency quantitatively has resulted in a more accurate and precise compendial test for insulin and insulin products. However, the bioidentity of insulin and insulin products cannot be assessed by these methods. Thus, a bioidentity test ▲▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) is called for in the appropriate monographs.

▲Two options are provided: The *Rabbit Blood Sugar Method* can be used for any compendial insulin or insulin analog. The *In Vitro Cell-Based Bioidentity Test* can be used for Insulin glargine and Insulin lispro.▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) The *Rabbit Blood Sugar Method—Quantitative* is used to determine the potency of Insulin Reference Standards, for the validation of the stability of new insulin preparations, and to determine the specific activities of insulin analogs.

ASSAY

Change to read:

• RABBIT BLOOD SUGAR METHOD—QUANTITATIVE

**Diluent:** Prepare an aqueous solution containing 0.1%–0.25% (w/v) of either cresol or phenol, 1.4%–1.8% (w/v) of glycerin, and sufficient hydrochloric acid to produce a pH between 2.5 and 3.5, unless otherwise directed in the individual monograph.

**Standard stock solution:** Prepare a solution containing 40 USP Insulin Units/mL of the USP Insulin Reference Standard of the appropriate species in *Diluent* and having a pH between 2.5 and 3.5, unless otherwise directed in the individual monograph. Store in a ▲refrigerator,▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) protected from freezing, and use within 6 months.

**Standard solution 1:** Dilute a portion of the *Standard stock solution* with *Diluent* to contain 1.0 USP Insulin Unit/mL.

**Standard solution 2:** Dilute a portion of the *Standard stock solution* with *Diluent* to contain 2.0 USP Insulin Units/mL.

**Sample stock solution:** Prepare as directed in the *Standard stock solution*, except to use a suitable quantity of the preparation under test in place of the USP Insulin Reference Standard of the appropriate species. The *Sample stock solution* contains about 40 USP Insulin Units/mL.

**Sample solution 1:** Dilute a portion of the *Sample stock solution* with *Diluent* to make a dilution of the preparation under test. On the basis of the assumed potency, it is expected to contain 1.0 USP Insulin Unit/mL. In the case of neutral insulin injection, adjust to a pH of 2.5–3.5 before making the dilution.

**Sample solution 2:** Dilute a portion of the *Sample stock solution* with *Diluent* to make a dilution of the preparation under test. On the basis of the assumed potency, it is expected to contain 2.0 USP Insulin Units/mL. In the case of neutral insulin injection, adjust to a pH of 2.5–3.5 before making the dilution.

**Doses of the solutions to be injected:** Select, on the basis of trial or experience, the dose of the dilutions to be injected, the volume of which usually will be between 0.30 and 0.50 mL. For each animal, the volume of the *Standard solution* is the same as that of the *Sample solution*.

**Preparation of animal:** Select suitable, healthy rabbits, each weighing NLT 1.8 kg. Keep the rabbits in the laboratory for NLT 1 week before use in the assay, maintaining them on an adequate uniform diet, with water available at all times.

**Analysis:** Divide the rabbits into four equal groups of preferably NLT 6 rabbits each. On the preceding day, approximately 20 h before performing the assay, provide each rabbit with an amount of food that will be consumed within 6 h. Follow the same feeding schedule before each test day. During the assay, withhold all food until after the final blood specimen is taken. Handle the rabbits with care to avoid undue excitement, and inject subcutaneously the doses indicated in the following design (see [Table 1](#)), the second injection being made on the day after the first injection, or NMT 1 week later. The time between the first and second injections is the same for all rabbits.

Table 1

Group	First Injection	Second Injection
1	Standard solution 2	Sample solution 1

Group	First Injection	Second Injection
2	Standard solution 1	Sample solution 2
3	Sample solution 2	Standard solution 1
4	Sample solution 1	Standard solution 2

**Blood samples:** At 1 h ± 5 min and 2.5 h ± 5 min after the time of  $\blacktriangle$  each  $\blacktriangle$  (USP 1-Dec-2020) injection, obtain from each rabbit a suitable blood specimen from a marginal ear vein. Blood can also be collected effectively from the central auricular artery.

**Dextrose determination:** Determine the dextrose content of the blood specimens by a suitable procedure that is adapted to automated analysis. The following procedure may be used.

**Anticoagulant solution:** Dissolve 1 g of edetate sodium and 200 mg of sodium fluoride in 1 L of water, and mix.

**Dextrose standard preparations:** Transfer known concentrations of [USP Dextrose RS](#) to suitable vessels, and dilute quantitatively and stepwise with *Anticoagulant solution* (1:9) to obtain a range of *Dextrose standard preparations* containing 20–100 mg/100 mL, having known concentrations similar to the concentrations in the rabbit blood samples.

**Sample preparations:** Pipet into separate, suitable vessels 0.1 mL of each *Blood sample* and 0.9 mL of *Anticoagulant solution*.

**Analysis:** Subject the *Sample preparations* to dialysis across a semipermeable membrane for a sufficient time so that the dextrose passes through the membrane into a saline TS solution containing glucose oxidase, horseradish peroxidase, 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride TS, and *N,N*-dimethylaniline. The absorbances of the *Sample preparations* are determined at 600 nm in a recording colorimeter. The absorbances of the *Dextrose standard preparations* are similarly determined at the start and the end of each run.

**Calculation:** Calculate the response of each rabbit to each injection from the sum of the two blood sugar values, and subtract its response, disregarding the chronological order in which the responses were observed, to obtain the individual differences,  $y$ , as shown in [Table 2](#).

When the data for one or more rabbits are missing in an assay, do not use the confidence interval formulas given here, but seek statistical help. The data can still be analyzed with proper analysis of variance.

When the number of rabbits,  $f$ , carried through the assay is the same in each group, total the  $y$ 's in each group and compute:

$$T_a = -T_1 + T_2 + T_3 - T_4$$

and

$$T_b = T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + T_4$$

The logarithm of the relative potency of the test dilutions is  $M' = 0.301 T_a / T_b$ . The potency of the injection in USP Units/mg equals the antilog ( $\log R + M'$ ), where:

$$R = v_s / v_u$$

$v_s$  = number of USP Units/mL of insulin in the *Standard solution*

$v_u$  = number of mg/mL of insulin in the corresponding *Sample solution*

**Table 2**

Group	Differences	Individual Response ( $y$ )	Total Response ( $T$ )	Standard Deviation of Differences ( $S$ )
1	Standard solution 2 – Sample solution 1	$y_1$	$T_1$	$S_1$
2	Sample solution 2 – Standard solution 1	$y_2$	$T_2$	$S_2$
3	Sample solution 2 – Standard solution 1	$y_3$	$T_3$	$S_3$
4	Standard solution 2 – Sample solution 1	$y_4$	$T_4$	$S_4$

Determine the 95% confidence interval for the log-relative potency using *Fieller's Theorem for Determining the Confidence Interval for a Ratio* as shown below.  $\blacktriangle$  (USP 1-Dec-2020) If the confidence interval  $\blacktriangle$ width ( $U - L$ )  $\blacktriangle$  (USP 1-Dec-2020) is more than 0.082, which corresponds at  $P = 0.95$  to confidence limits of about  $\pm 10\%$  of the computed potency, repeat the assay until the combined data of the

two or more assays, redetermined as described in [Design and Analysis of Biological Assays \(111\)](#), [Combination of Independent Assays](#), meet this acceptable limit.

**Change to read:**

▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) **Fieller's Theorem for Determining the Confidence Interval for a Ratio**

This version of Fieller's Theorem is for the case where the numerator and denominator are uncorrelated. The equation assumes that the numerator and denominator are normally distributed and that the groups of rabbits are of equal sizes.

Then, the 95% confidence interval ▲ (L: lower, U: upper) ▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) for the ratio is:

$$(L,U) = M' \pm \frac{t}{T_b} \sqrt{(1-g)S_N^2 + (M')^2 S_D^2}$$

where  $f$  (degrees of freedom in the standard errors) =  $4(k - 1)$ , where  $k$  is the number of rabbits in a group,  $t$  is the upper 97.5 percentile of the  $t$ -distribution with  $f$  degrees of freedom, and

$$g = \frac{t^2 S_D^2}{T_b^2}$$

If  $g \geq 1$ , the denominator is not significantly different from 0 and the formula does not work.

$$S_N = 0.301 \sqrt{k} \sqrt{S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2 + S_4^2}$$

$$S_D = \sqrt{k} \sqrt{S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2 + S_4^2}$$

**Change to read:**

• ▲ **In Vivo** ▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) **BIOIDENTITY TEST**

Proceed as directed in *Rabbit Blood Sugar Method—Quantitative* with the following modifications.

**Procedure:** Divide the rabbits into four equal groups of 2 rabbits each.

**Calculation:** Proceed as directed for *Calculation* in *Rabbit Blood Sugar Method—Quantitative*, but do not determine the confidence interval of the log-relative potency,  $M'$ .

**Interpretation:** If the potency value obtained is NLT 15 USP Units/mg, then the ▲ *In Vivo* ▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020) *Bioidentity Test* requirement is met.

If the potency value is less than 15 USP Units/mg, then repeat the test using 8 more rabbits. If the average potency of the two sets of tests is NLT 15 USP Units/mg, then the requirement of the test is met.

**Add the following:**

▲ **In Vitro Cell-Based Bioidentity Test for Insulin Glargine and Insulin Lispro**

**Minimal medium:** Ham's F-12 Nutrient Mixture containing 1 mM L-alanyl-L-glutamine<sup>1</sup>

**Growth medium:** 90% (v/v) Ham's F-12 Nutrient Mixture with 1 mM L-alanyl-L-glutamine, 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (FBS),<sup>2</sup> and 0.03% (w/v) hygromycin B

**D-PBS solution:** Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline without calcium and magnesium<sup>3</sup> containing 0.2 g/L of [potassium chloride](#), 0.2 g/L of [monobasic potassium phosphate](#), 8 g/L of [sodium chloride](#), and 2.16 g/L of [dibasic sodium phosphate](#).

**Fixing solution:** Prepare 3.7% (v/v) formaldehyde solution by diluting a commercially available 37% (w/v) formaldehyde solution with *D-PBS solution*. Prepare freshly before use.

**Permeabilization solution:** 0.1% (v/v) Triton® X-100 in *D-PBS solution*

**Washing solution:** 0.1% (v/v) [polysorbate 20](#) in *D-PBS solution*

**Blocking buffer:** 2% (w/v) bovine serum albumin (BSA)<sup>4</sup> in *D-PBS solution*. [NOTE—Filtration of solution can be helpful to remove particles.]

**Blocking buffer for primary antibody:** 0.1% (v/v) [polysorbate 20](#) in *Blocking buffer*

**Primary antibody solution:** Dilute an anti-phosphotyrosine antibody recognizing phosphotyrosines of insulin receptors in *Blocking buffer* for *primary antibody*. [NOTE—For example, dilute the anti-phosphotyrosine mouse monoclonal antibody<sup>5</sup> in *Blocking buffer* for *primary antibody* at 1:2000 when the antibody is at a concentration of 1 mg/mL. Use within 15 min after preparation.]

**Blocking buffer for secondary antibody:** 0.2% (v/v) [polysorbate 20](#) in *Blocking buffer*

**Secondary antibody solution:** Dilute a suitable secondary antibody conjugated with a suitable fluorescent dye,<sup>6</sup> a fluorescent dye for cell staining,<sup>7</sup> and/or a suitable fluorescent dye for DNA staining<sup>8</sup> in *Blocking buffer* for *secondary antibody*. Protect the solution from light.

[NOTE—See example on preparing a *Secondary antibody solution*.<sup>9</sup>]

**Cell culture preparation:** Culture CHO INSR 1284 cells<sup>10</sup> in *Growth medium* at 37° and 5% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) atmosphere in a humidified incubator. Cells should be transferred when the cultures are approximately 70%–95% confluent. For cell transfer, remove the flasks from the incubator and discard the media. Rinse the cells with *D-PBS solution*. Add an appropriate amount of Accutase<sup>11</sup> to the cells and place in an incubator for about 5 min at 37°. Tap repeatedly on the flask in order to remove all cells from the flask bottom. Add an appropriate amount of *Growth medium* to stop the Accutase activity. Determine cell concentration and viability. Calculate the desired amount of cells for seeding depending on planned cultivation days. Cells are transferred into a T75 cm<sup>2</sup> flask with approximately 18 mL of *Growth medium* at 0.25 × 10<sup>5</sup> to 9 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells per flask or a T175 cm<sup>2</sup> flask with approximately 45 mL of *Growth medium* at 0.1 × 10<sup>6</sup> to 2 × 10<sup>6</sup> cells per flask.

**Preparation of cells for analysis**

**Plates:** Sterile 96-well, clear bottom, black<sup>12</sup>

**System suitability requirements for the cells**

**Viability:** NLT 85%

**Average % of cell aggregates:** NMT 15% of cell clumps. [NOTE—The clump is defined as a cluster containing more than 3 cells.]

For bioidentity test, a total of two plates of cells are needed to assay two independent dilutions of the *Standard solution* and the *Sample solution*. The maximal number of cell passages to be used is determined individually. Following the procedure described in *Cell culture preparation*, prepare an appropriate volume of cell solution at  $0.5 \times 10^5$  to  $1 \times 10^5$  viable cells/mL in *Growth medium* (see [Table 3](#) for examples of seeding densities).

**Table 3**

Initial Cell Concentration (cells/mL)	Number of Cells Seeded per Well	Time Needed for Growth Prior to Analysis (days)
100,000	20,000 $\pm$ 20%	2
70,000	14,000 $\pm$ 20%	3
50,000	10,000 $\pm$ 20%	4

To the sterile plates add 0.2 mL of cell solution per well under aseptic conditions. Mix the cell solution frequently during dispensing to prevent cells from settling and to ensure consistent density throughout the plate. Cover the plates. Let the plates seeded with cells stand at room temperature for 30 min before transferring them into an incubator. Arrange the plates side by side, and do not stack up the plates. Incubate plates at 37° with 5% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) for the indicated time as shown in [Table 3](#). Verify even growth and 90% or higher confluency via microscope before *Analysis*. Following the incubation, remove media from the cells and wash each well with 200  $\mu$ L of sterile *D-PBS solution*. Add 160  $\mu$ L of sterile *Minimal medium* to each well. Incubate plates for 3–5 h at 37° with 5% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This last step is for cell media starvation prior to *Analysis*.

**Preparation of solutions for insulin glargine and insulin lispro**

Up to three different insulin samples can be tested in one assay. For bioidentity test, independently prepare *Standard solutions* and *Sample solutions* in duplicate that are assayed in two separate plates to obtain two intermediate potency results per sample.

[NOTE—All described dilutions except for stock solutions are to be carried out just prior to their application to the cells. For each black plate seeded with cells as described in *Preparation of cells for analysis*, one separate 96-well polypropylene plate can be used for preparation of the serial dilutions from one of the *Standard solution* or *Sample solution* duplicates.]

Preparation of the *Standard solution* and *Sample solution* and delivery to the cells must occur within 15 min when using plasticware.

**Insulin glargine**

**Standard stock solution:** 17 USP Insulin Glargine Units/mL of [USP Insulin Glargine RS](#) in 0.01 N [hydrochloric acid](#)

**Standard solutions:** 0.34 USP Insulin Glargine Units/mL prepared by diluting the *Standard stock solution* with *D-PBS solution*. Prepare in duplicate.

**Sample solutions:** 0.34 USP Insulin Glargine Units/mL of insulin glargine in *D-PBS solution*. Prepare in duplicate.

**Diluted standard solutions and sample solutions:** For each assay plate, prepare three separate dilution sets from one of the *Standard solution* and *Sample solution* preparations. The range of the concentrations of insulin glargine solutions to be added to the cells needs to be determined during method verification. Successful testing was demonstrated for a range of  $340 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $0.16 \times 10^{-3}$  USP Insulin Glargine Units/mL. The dilution can be prepared as follows. Add 200  $\mu$ L of *D-PBS solution* into each well of a 96-well polypropylene plate, except those wells in row A. Next, add 300  $\mu$ L of *Standard solution* into wells A1, A5, and A9 of the dilution plate. Add 300  $\mu$ L of the first *Sample solution* into wells A2, A6, and A10; the second *Sample solution* into wells A3, A7, and A11; the third *Sample solution* into wells A4, A8, and A12. Perform simultaneously serial three-fold dilutions on the plate by transferring 100  $\mu$ L of solution from the first row (A1–A12) to the second row, and mix three times. Then transfer 100  $\mu$ L of solution from the second row to the third row, and mix three times. Repeat this procedure across the whole plate up to row H. Repeat the above for the replicate preparation.

**Insulin lispro**

**Dilution buffer:** 0.1% (w/v) BSA<sup>4</sup> in *D-PBS solution*. Prepare freshly before use.

**Standard stock solution:** 10 USP Insulin Lispro Units/mL of [USP Insulin Lispro RS](#) in 0.01 N [hydrochloric acid](#)

**Standard solutions:** 0.3 USP Insulin Lispro Units/mL in duplicate prepared by diluting the *Standard stock solution* with *Dilution buffer*

**Sample solutions:** 0.3 USP Insulin Lispro Units/mL of insulin lispro in *Dilution buffer*. Prepare in duplicate.

**Diluted standard solutions and sample solutions:** For each assay plate, prepare three separate dilution sets from one of the *Standard solution* and *Sample solution* preparations. The range of the concentrations of insulin lispro solutions to be added to the cells needs to be determined during method verification. Successful testing was demonstrated for a range of  $300 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $0.004 \times 10^{-3}$  USP Insulin Lispro Units/mL. The dilution can be prepared as follows. Dispense 300  $\mu$ L of *Dilution buffer* into each well of a 96-well polypropylene plate, except those wells in rows A, B, and C. Add 180  $\mu$ L of *Dilution buffer* into the wells of row B and C. Next, add 300  $\mu$ L of *Standard solution* into wells A1, A5, and A9. Add 300  $\mu$ L of the first *Sample solution* into wells A2, A6, and A10; the second *Sample solution* into

wells A3, A7, and A11; the third *Sample solution* into wells A4, A8, and A12. Perform simultaneously serial dilutions on the plate by transferring 120 µL of solution from the first row (A1–A12) to the second row, and mix three times. Then transfer 60 µL of solution from the second row to the third row, and mix three times. Next transfer 60 µL of solution from the third row to the fourth row, mix three times, and repeat this procedure across the whole plate up to row H. Repeat the above for the replicate preparation.

**Analysis:** All solutions are added by pipetting them into the plate wells carefully without touching the bottom. Following cell starvation, add 40 µL per well of each *Diluted standard solution* or *Diluted sample solution* into appropriate wells of the plate. Since each well has contained 160 µL of *Minimal medium*, the *Diluted standard solution* and *Diluted sample solution* are further diluted by a factor of 5.

[NOTE—See [Table 4](#) for an example of the plate layout, which can be changed column by column for randomization purposes. See [Design and Development of Biological Assays 1032, 5. Stages in the Bioassay Development Process, 5.1 Design: Assay Layout, Blocking, and Randomization](#) for helpful information on randomization of samples and plate layout.]

**Table 4**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	St,#1	S1,#1	S2,#1	S3,#1	St,#1	S1,#1	S2,#1	S3,#1	St,#1	S1,#1	S2,#1	S3,#1
B	St,#2	S1,#2	S2,#2	S3,#2	St,#2	S1,#2	S2,#2	S3,#2	St,#2	S1,#2	S2,#2	S3,#2
C	St,#3	S1,#3	S2,#3	S3,#3	St,#3	S1,#3	S2,#3	S3,#3	St,#3	S1,#3	S2,#3	S3,#3
D	St,#4	S1,#4	S2,#4	S3,#4	St,#4	S1,#4	S2,#4	S3,#4	St,#4	S1,#4	S2,#4	S3,#4
E	St,#5	S1,#5	S2,#5	S3,#5	St,#5	S1,#5	S2,#5	S3,#5	St,#5	S1,#5	S2,#5	S3,#5
F	St,#6	S1,#6	S2,#6	S3,#6	St,#6	S1,#6	S2,#6	S3,#6	St,#6	S1,#6	S2,#6	S3,#6
G	St,#7	S1,#7	S2,#7	S3,#7	St,#7	S1,#7	S2,#7	S3,#7	St,#7	S1,#7	S2,#7	S3,#7
H	St,#8 (BG)	S1,#8	S2,#8	S3,#8	St,#8 (BG)	S1,#8	S2,#8	S3,#8	St,#8 (BG)	S1,#8	S2,#8	S3,#8

**Legend:**  
 St,#1–#8 = *Diluted standard solutions* prepared from the dilution series of *Standard solutions*.  
 S1, S2, S3, #1–#8 = *Diluted sample solutions* prepared from the dilution series of *Sample solutions* of insulin samples 1, 2, and 3.  
 BG = Background; *Diluted standard solutions* at the lowest concentration serve as background.

[NOTE—All the steps below are performed at room temperature, unless otherwise specified.]

Incubate the plates at 37° with 5% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) for 20 min. Discard the media and replace with 150 µL of freshly prepared *Fixing solution* per well. Incubate the plates for 20 min with constant gentle shaking. Discard the *Fixing solution*, and add 200 µL of *Permeabilization solution* to each well. Incubate the plates for 10 min with constant gentle shaking. Repeat the permeabilization step once. Discard the *Permeabilization solution* and add 300 µL of *Blocking buffer* to each well. Cover the plates. Incubate the plates at 2°–8° overnight without shaking.

Remove *Blocking buffer* and add 50 µL of freshly prepared *Primary antibody solution* to each well. Cover the plates. Incubate the plates for about 2 h with constant gentle shaking. Alternatively, before removing the *Blocking buffer*, incubate the plates at room temperature for 1 h with constant gentle shaking. Then remove the *Blocking buffer*, add freshly prepared *Primary antibody solution*, and cover the plates. Incubate at 2°–8° overnight without shaking.

Discard the *Primary antibody solution*, wash each well 5 times using 200 µL of *Washing solution* per well each time. Perform each wash step under constant gentle shaking for about 5 min. Apply 50 µL of freshly prepared *Secondary antibody solution* to each well. Incubate the plates protected from light (use black lids) for about 1 h with constant gentle shaking. Discard the *Secondary antibody solution*. Wash each well 5 times using 200 µL of *Washing solution* per well each time. Perform each wash step under constant gentle shaking for about 5 min. Add 200 µL of *Washing solution* per well and leave the solution in until measurement. Protect the plates from light. [NOTE—The plates containing the *Washing solution* can be stored at 2°–8° for a maximum of 24 h and protected from light]

Read the plate in a suitable microplate reader or scanner with appropriate excitation and emission wavelengths.

#### Instrumental conditions

**Mode:** Fluorescence<sup>13</sup>

**Analytical wavelengths:** Appropriate excitation and emission wavelengths based on the fluorescent dyes used. Excitation wavelength for the secondary antibody signal needs to differ from the wavelength of the cell and/or DNA stain in order to enable parallel readout, for example, using about 800 nm to detect the secondary antibody and about 700 nm to detect DRAQ5™ DNA Dye and Sapphire700™.

**Calculations:** For each well of each assay plate, normalize (for number of cells per well) the assay signals detected from the secondary antibody that is bound to the primary antibody with the signals from the fluorescent dye for the cell staining and/or DNA fluorescent dye, which represent the total number of cells present for that well. The processed signal is derived from the normalized signal that is



subtracted by the background signal. The background signal is the average of the normalized signals detected by the *Diluted standard solution* at the lowest concentration. If necessary, it can be multiplied with a factor smaller than 1.0 in order to avoid negative values at the lowest concentration after background subtraction.

Generate a dose-response curve by plotting the processed signal responses from each set of *Diluted standard solutions* or *Diluted sample solutions* from one assay plate against their concentrations on a logarithmic scale using a four parameter logistic (4-PL) constrained model. Therefore, three individual curves representing triplicate sets of *Diluted standard solutions* or *Diluted sample solutions* from each assay plate are generated. Determine the individual  $EC_{50}$  value for the *Standard solution* or *Sample solution* from each of the curves of each assay plate.

[NOTE—The necessity of the responses to be weighted is to be determined during method verification. See [Design and Development of Biological Assays \(1032\)](#), [4. Statistical Aspects of Bioassay Fundamentals, 4.8 Outliers](#) for helpful information on performing outlier detection and rejection, e.g., through a goodness-of-fit tool.]

Calculate the relative potency ( $RP_{U,1 \text{ or } 2}$ ) percentage for each insulin sample from each assay plate:

$$RP_{U,x} = (EC_{50,S}/EC_{50,U}) \times 100$$

$EC_{50,S}$  =  $EC_{50}$  value for the *Standard solution* from one assay plate

$EC_{50,U}$  =  $EC_{50}$  value for the *Sample solution* from one assay plate

Calculate the geometric mean of the relative potency ( $M_U$ ) of each insulin sample from both assay plates:

$$M_U = \sqrt{RP_{U,1} \times RP_{U,2}}$$

$RP_{U,1}$  = relative potency of an insulin sample from assay plate 1

$RP_{U,2}$  = relative potency of an insulin sample from assay plate 2

Calculate the potency of the insulin sample in USP Insulin Glargine Units/mg or USP Insulin Lispro Units/mg:

$$\text{Potency} = (C_S \times M_U)/(C_U \times 100)$$

$C_S$  = concentration of [USP Insulin Glargine RS](#) or [USP Insulin Lispro RS](#) in the *Standard stock solution* (USP Insulin Glargine Units/mL or USP Insulin Lispro Units/mL)

$M_U$  = geometric mean of the relative potency of each insulin sample from both assay plates

$C_U$  = initial concentration of insulin sample (mg/mL)

**Parallelism between standard and sample solution curves:** See [Design and Development of Biological Assays \(1032\)](#), [4. Statistical Aspects of Bioassay Fundamentals, 4.7 Suitability Testing](#) for helpful information on determining the parallelism by assessing the slope ratio and the upper and lower asymptotes.

**Relative standard deviation for  $EC_{50}$ :** NMT 25% for three  $EC_{50}$  values derived from the triplicate sets of *Diluted sample solutions* from the same assay plate using the 4-PL free model

**Relative bias for relative potency of each individual sample:** NMT 35%

Determine the relative bias (RB) for relative potency of each individual sample:

$$RB = [(RP_{U,1 \text{ or } 2}/M_U) - 1] \times 100$$

$RP_{U,1 \text{ or } 2}$  = relative potency of an insulin sample from assay plate 1 or 2

$M_U$  = average of the relative potency of each insulin sample from both assay plates

### System suitability

Generate a dose-response curve by plotting the processed signal responses of all three sets of *Diluted standard solutions* or *Diluted sample solutions* from one assay plate against their concentrations on a logarithmic scale using a 4-PL free model. Therefore, one curve representing all three sets of *Diluted standard solutions* and one curve for all three sets of *Diluted sample solutions* from one assay plate are generated. Determine the  $EC_{50}$  value for the *Standard solution* ( $EC_{50,S}$ ) and *Sample solution* ( $EC_{50,U}$ ) of each assay plate from the corresponding curve.

**Samples:** *Diluted standard solution* and *Diluted sample solution*

### Suitability requirements

**Relative standard deviation for  $EC_{50}$ :** NMT 25% for three  $EC_{50}$  values derived from the triplicate sets of *Diluted standard solutions* from the same assay plate using the 4-PL free model

**Signal-to-noise ratio:** The mean signal for the *Diluted standard solutions* at the highest concentration is NLT 1.5-fold of the mean signal for all *Diluted standard solutions* at the lowest concentration from the same assay plate.

**Acceptance criteria:** NLT 15 USP Insulin Units/mg on the as-is basis ▲ (USP 1-Dec-2020)

• [USP REFERENCE STANDARDS <11>](#).

[USP Dextrose RS](#)  
[USP Insulin Aspart RS](#)  
[USP Insulin Glargine RS](#)  
[USP Insulin Human RS](#)  
[USP Insulin Lispro RS](#)  
[USP Insulin Pork RS](#)

- <sup>1</sup> Ham's F-12 Nutrient Mixture, Glutamax™ Supplement, ThermoFisher #31765035 or #31765092, or equivalent.
- <sup>2</sup> ThermoFisher #10082147 or equivalent.
- <sup>3</sup> ThermoFisher #14190144 or equivalent.
- <sup>4</sup> Sigma-Aldrich #A9647 or equivalent.
- <sup>5</sup> A suitable primary antibody is anti-phosphotyrosine 4G10 mouse monoclonal antibody (1 mg/mL) from Millipore #05-321 or equivalent.
- <sup>6</sup> A suitable secondary antibody is IRDye 800CW Goat-anti-mouse IgG from LI-COR #926-32210 or equivalent.
- <sup>7</sup> A suitable fluorescent dye for cell staining is Sapphire700™ Stain #928-40022, or CellTag 700 Stain #926-41090 from LI-COR, or equivalent.
- <sup>8</sup> A suitable fluorescent DNA dye is DRAQ5™ DNA Stain from Biostatus #DR50050 or #DR50200, or equivalent.
- <sup>9</sup> An example for preparing a solution containing diluted IRDye® 800CW Goat-anti-mouse IgG,<sup>6</sup> Sapphire700 Stain,<sup>7</sup> and DRAQ5™ DNA Stain<sup>8</sup> is as follows. Prepare the solution containing 1 µg/mL of IRDye® 800CW Goat-anti-mouse-IgG5, Sapphire700™ (diluted 1:1000), and 0.5 µM DRAQ5™ in *Blocking buffer for secondary antibody*. Use this solution within 15 min after preparation.
- <sup>10</sup> ATCC #CRL-3307.
- <sup>11</sup> Sigma-Aldrich #A6964 or equivalent.
- <sup>12</sup> Corning #3904 96-Well Flat Clear Bottom Black Polystyrene Microplates or equivalent.
- <sup>13</sup> Using a microplate reader with fluorescence detection, such as LI-COR Odyssey Infrared Imaging System or equivalent.

**Auxiliary Information** - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
<121> INSULIN ASSAYS	<a href="#">Jennifer Tong Sun</a> Senior Scientist II	BI02 Biologics Monographs 2 - Proteins
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