

Status: Currently Official on 12-Feb-2025
 Official Date: Official Prior to 2013
 Document Type: General Chapter
 DocId: GUID-E2EDFCFC-C31E-4D4A-8C63-379B1B88597A_2_en-US
 DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M99185_02_01
 DOI Ref: 00qyc

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<425> IODOMETRIC ASSAY—ANTIBIOTICS

The following method is provided for the assay of most of the Pharmacopeial penicillin antibiotic drugs and their dosage forms, for which iodometric titration is particularly suitable.

ASSAY

Standard preparation: Dissolve in the solvent specified in the table of *Solvents and Final Concentrations* a suitable quantity of the USP Reference Standard specified in the individual monograph, previously dried under the conditions specified in the individual monograph and accurately weighed, and dilute quantitatively and stepwise with the same solvent to obtain a solution having a known concentration of about that specified in the table. Pipet 2.0 mL of this solution into each of two 125-mL glass-stoppered conical flasks.

Solvents and Final Concentrations

Antibiotic	Solvent*	Final Concentration
Amoxicillin	Water	1.0 mg/mL
Ampicillin	Water	1.25 mg/mL
Ampicillin Sodium	Buffer B.1	1.25 mg/mL
Cloxacillin Sodium	Water	1.25 mg/mL
Cyclacillin	Water	1.0 mg/mL
Dicloxacillin Sodium	Buffer B.1	1.25 mg/mL
Methicillin Sodium	Buffer B.1	1.25 mg/mL
Nafcillin Sodium	Buffer B.1	1.25 mg/mL
Oxacillin Sodium	Buffer B.1	1.25 mg/mL
Penicillin G Potassium	Buffer B.1	2,000 units/mL
Penicillin G Sodium	Buffer B.1	2,000 units/mL
Penicillin V Potassium	Buffer B.1	2,000 units/mL
Phenethicillin Potassium	Buffer B.1	2,000 units/mL

* Unless otherwise noted, the *Buffers* are the potassium phosphate buffers defined in the section *Media and Diluents* under [Antibiotics—Microbial Assays \(81\)](#), except that sterilization is not required before use.

Assay preparation: Unless otherwise specified in the individual monograph, dissolve in the solvent specified in the table of *Solvents and Final Concentrations* a suitable quantity, accurately weighed, of the specimen under test, and dilute quantitatively with the same solvent to obtain a solution having a known final concentration of about that specified in the table. Pipet 2 mL of this solution into each of two 125-mL glass-stoppered conical flasks.

Procedure

Inactivation and titration: To 2.0 mL of the *Standard preparation* and of the *Assay preparation*, in respective flasks, add 2.0 mL of 1.0 N sodium hydroxide, mix by swirling, and allow to stand for 15 minutes. To each flask add 2.0 mL of 1.2 N hydrochloric acid, add 10.0 mL of 0.01 N iodine VS, immediately insert the stopper, and allow to stand for 15 minutes. Titrate with 0.01 N sodium thiosulfate VS. As the endpoint is approached, add 1 drop of starch iodide paste TS, and continue the titration to the discharge of the blue color.

Blank determination: To a flask containing 2.0 mL of the *Standard preparation* add 10.0 mL of 0.01 N iodine VS. If the *Standard Preparation* contains amoxicillin or ampicillin, immediately add 0.1 mL of 1.2 N hydrochloric acid. Immediately titrate with 0.01 N sodium thiosulfate VS. As the endpoint is approached, add 1 drop of starch iodide paste TS, and continue the titration to the discharge of the blue color. Similarly treat a flask containing 2.0 mL of the *Assay preparation*.

Calculations

Calculate the microgram (or unit) equivalent (F) of each mL of 0.01 N sodium thiosulfate consumed by the *Standard preparation* by the formula:

$$\text{Result} = (2CP)/(B - I)$$

C = concentration of Reference Standard in the *Standard preparation* (mg/mL)

P = potency of the Reference Standard (µg/mg or units/mg)

B = volume of 0.01 N sodium thiosulfate consumed in the *Blank determination* (mL)

I = volume of 0.01 N sodium thiosulfate consumed in the *Inactivation and titration* (mL)

Calculate the potency of the specimen under test by the formula given in the individual monograph.

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

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
<425> IODOMETRIC ASSAY--ANTIBIOTICS	Documentary Standards Support	SM12020 Small Molecules 1

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Current DocID: [GUID-E2EDFCFC-C31E-4D4A-8C63-379B1B88597A_2_en-US](#)

Previous DocID: [GUID-E2EDFCFC-C31E-4D4A-8C63-379B1B88597A_1_en-US](#)

DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M99185_02_01

DOI ref: [00qyc](#)

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