



Free Testosterone AccuBind® ELISA Test System

Product Code: 5325-300

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Indications for Use: The device is an Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) for the quantitative measurement of free testosterone in human serum. Measurement of free testosterone is used in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders involving the male sex hormones (androgens), including primary and secondary hypogonadism, impotence in males and in females; hirsutism (excessive hair) and virilization (masculinization) due to tumors, polycystic ovaries and androgenital syndromes.

2.0 SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION OF THE TEST

Testosterone, (17β-Hydroxy-4-androstene-3-one), a C₁₉ steroid, is the most potent naturally secreted androgen. In normal post pubertal males, testosterone is secreted primarily by the testes, with only a small amount derived from peripheral conversion of 4-Androstene-3, 17-dione (ASD).² In adult women, it has been estimated that over 50% of serum testosterone is derived from peripheral conversion of ASD secreted by the adrenal and ovary, with the remainder from direct secretion of testosterone by these glands.

In the male, testosterone is mainly synthesized in the interstitial Leydig cells and the testis, and is regulated by the interstitial cell stimulating hormone (ICSH), or luteinizing hormone (LH) of the anterior pituitary (the female equivalent of ICSH).³ Testosterone is responsible for the development of secondary sex characteristics, such as the accessory sex organs, the prostate, seminal vesicles and the growth of facial, pubic and axillary hair. Testosterone measurements have been very helpful in evaluating hypogonadal states. Increased testosterone levels in males can be found in complete androgen resistance (testicular feminization). Common causes of decreased testosterone levels in males include: hypogonadism, orchidectomy, estrogen therapy, Klinefelter's syndrome, hypopituitarism, and hepatic cirrhosis.^{2,4}

In the female, testosterone levels are normally found to be much lower than those encountered in the healthy male. Testosterone in the female comes from three sources. It is secreted in small quantities by both the adrenal glands and the ovaries, and in healthy women, 50-60% of the daily testosterone production arises from peripheral metabolism of prohormone, chiefly androstenedione. Common causes of increased serum testosterone levels in females include polycystic ovaries (Stein-Leventhal syndrome), ovarian tumors, adrenal tumors and adrenal hyperplasia. Virilization in women is associated with the administration of androgens and endogenous overproduction of testosterone. There appears to be a correlation between serum testosterone levels and the degree of virilization in women, although approximately 25% of women with varying degrees of virilism have serum testosterone levels that fall within the female reference range.

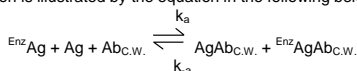
The majority of testosterone is bound to transport proteins: weakly bound to albumin and cortisol binding protein (25-65% females; 45-85% males) and tightly bound to sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) (35-75% females; 14-50% males).⁵ A small fraction exist as unbound or free testosterone; however, this form is biologically active. Therefore, the free hormone concentration is a better indicator of biological activity than total testosterone.

3.0 PRINCIPLE

Competitive Enzyme Immunoassay (TYPE 5)

The essential reagents required for a solid phase enzyme immunoassay include immobilized antibody, enzyme-antigen conjugate and native antigen.

Upon mixing immobilized antibody, enzyme-antigen conjugate and a serum containing the native antigen, a competition reaction results between the native antigen and the enzyme-antigen conjugate for a limited number of insolubilized binding sites. The interaction is illustrated by the equation in the following below.



Ab_{C.W.} = Monospecific Immobilized Antibody (Constant Quantity)
 Ag = Native Antigen (Variable Quantity)

EnzAg = Enzyme-antigen Conjugate (Constant Quantity)
 AgAb_{C.W.} = Antigen-Antibody Complex
 EnzAgAb_{C.W.} = Enzyme-antigen Conjugate -Antibody Complex
 k_a = Rate Constant of Association
 k_a = Rate Constant of Disassociation
 K = k_a / k_{-a} = Equilibrium Constant

After equilibrium is attained, the antibody-bound fraction is separated from unbound antigen by decantation or aspiration. The enzyme activity in the antibody-bound fraction is inversely proportional to the native antigen concentration. By utilizing several different serum references of known antigen concentration, a dose response curve can be generated from which the antigen concentration of an unknown can be ascertained.

4.0 REAGENTS

Materials Provided:

- A. Free Testosterone Calibrators – 1ml/vial – Icons A-G**
 Seven (7) vials of serum reference for Free Testosterone at concentrations of 0 (A), 0.2 (B), 1.0 (C), 2.5 (D), 7.5 (E), 20 (F) and 60 (G) in pg/ml. Store at 2-8°C. A preservative has been added. The calibrators can be expressed in molar concentrations (pM/L) by multiplying by 3.47.
 For example: 1pg/ml x 3.47 = 3.47 pM/L
- B. Free Testosterone Controls – 1ml/vial – Icons L, M, N**
 Three (3) vials of serum reference for Free Testosterone at low, middle, and high established concentrations (range values listed on labels). A preservative has been added. Store at 2-8 °C.
- C. Free Testosterone Enzyme Reagent – 13ml/vial – Icon E**
 One (1) vial of Testosterone (Analog)-horseradish peroxidases (HRP) conjugate in a protein stabilizing matrix with dye. Store at 2-8°C.
- D. Free Testosterone Coated Plate – 96 wells – Icon Y**
 One 96-well microplate coated with testosterone antibody and packaged in an aluminum bag with a drying agent. Store at 2-8°C.
- E. Wash Solution Concentrate – 20ml/vial – Icon D**
 One (1) vial containing a surfactant in buffered saline. A preservative has been added. Store at 2-8°C.
- F. Substrate A – 7ml/vial – Icon S^A**
 One (1) vial contains tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) in buffer. Store at 2-8°C. See "Reagent Preparation."
- G. Substrate B – 7ml/vial – Icon S^B**
 One (1) vial contains hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) in buffer. Store at 2-8°C. See "Reagent Preparation."
- H. Stop Solution - 8ml/vial – Icon S^H**
 One (1) vial contains a strong acid (1N HCl). Store at 2-8°C.

I. Product Instructions

- Note 1:** Do not use reagents beyond the kit expiration date.
- Note 2:** Avoid extended exposure to heat and light. **Opened reagents are stable for sixty (60) days when stored at 2-8°C. Kit and component stability are identified on label.**
- Note 3:** Above reagents are for a single 96-well microplate.

4.1 Required But Not Provided:

- 1. Pipette capable of delivering 0.020 & 0.050ml (20µl & 50µl) volumes with a precision of better than 1.5%.
- 2. Dispenser(s) for repetitive deliveries of 0.100 & 0.350ml (100 & 350µl) volumes with a precision of better than 1.5%.
- 3. Adjustable volume (200-1000µl) dispenser(s) for conjugate.
- 4. Microplate washer or a squeeze bottle (optional).
- 5. Microplate Reader with 450nm and 620nm wavelength absorbance capability.
- 6. Absorbent Paper for blotting the microplate wells.
- 7. Plastic wrap or microplate cover for incubation steps.
- 8. Vacuum aspirator (optional) for wash steps.
- 9. Timer.
- 10. Quality control materials.

5.0 PRECAUTIONS

**For In Vitro Diagnostic Use
 Not for Internal or External Use in Humans or Animals**

All products that contain human serum have been found to be non-reactive for Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, HIV 1&2 and HCV Antibodies by FDA approved tests. Since no known test can offer complete assurance that infectious agents are absent, all human serum products should be handled as potentially hazardous and capable of transmitting disease. Good laboratory procedures for handling blood products can be found in the Center for Disease Control / National Institute of Health, "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories," 2nd Edition, 1988, HHS Publication No. (CDC) 88-8395.

Safe Disposal of kit components must be according to local regulatory and statutory requirement.

6.0 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

The specimens shall be blood serum in type, and the usual precautions in the collection of venipuncture samples should be observed. The blood should be collected in a plain redtop venipuncture tube. Allow the blood to clot for serum samples. Centrifuge the specimen to separate the serum from the cells.

Samples may be refrigerated at 2-8°C for a maximum period of five (5) days. If the specimen(s) cannot be assayed within this time, the sample(s) may be stored at temperatures of -20°C for up to 30 days. Avoid use of contaminated devices. Avoid repetitive freezing and thawing. When assayed in duplicate, 0.040ml (40µl) of the specimen is required.

7.0 QUALITY CONTROL

Each laboratory should assay controls at levels in the low, normal and high range for monitoring assay performance. These controls should be treated as unknowns and values determined in every test procedure performed. Quality control charts should be maintained to follow the performance of the supplied reagents. Pertinent statistical methods should be employed to ascertain trends. The individual laboratory should set acceptable assay performance limits in accordance with local, state, and federal quality control regulations. In addition, maximum absorbance should be consistent with past experience. Significant deviation from established performance can indicate unnoticed change in experimental conditions or degradation of kit reagents. Fresh reagents should be used to determine the reason for the variations.

8.0 REAGENT PREPARATION

- 1. **Wash Buffer**
 Dilute contents of wash solution to 1000ml with distilled or deionized water in a suitable storage container. Diluted buffer can be stored at 2-30°C for up to 60 days.
- 2. **Working Substrate Solution - Stable for 1 year.**
 Pour the contents of the amber vial labeled Solution 'A' into the clear vial labeled Solution 'B'. Place the yellow cap on the clear vial for easy identification. Mix and label accordingly. Store at 2 - 8°C.

Note 1: Do not use reagents that are contaminated or have bacteria growth.
Note 2: Do not use the working substrate if it looks blue.

9.0 TEST PROCEDURE

*Before proceeding with the assay, bring all reagents, serum reference calibrators and controls to room temperature (20-27°C). ****Test Procedure should be performed by a skilled individual or trained professional*****

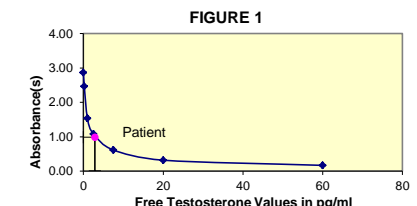
- 1. Format the microplates' wells for each serum reference, control and patient specimen to be assayed in duplicate. **Replace any unused microwell strips back into the aluminum bag, seal and store at 2-8°C.**
- 2. Pipette 0.020ml (20µl) of the appropriate serum reference, control or specimen into the assigned well.
- 3. Add 0.100ml (100µl) of the Free Testosterone Enzyme Reagent to all wells.
- 4. Swirl the microplate gently for 20-30 seconds to mix.
- 5. Cover and incubate for 60 minutes at room temperature.
- 6. Discard the contents of the microplate by decantation or aspiration. If decanting, blot the plate dry with absorbent paper.
- 7. Add 0.350ml (350µl) of wash buffer (see Reagent Preparation Section), decant (tap and blot) or aspirate. Repeat two (2) additional times for a total of three (3) washes. **An automatic or manual plate washer can be used. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for proper usage. If a squeeze bottle is employed, fill each well by depressing the wash container (avoiding air bubbles) to dispense the wash. Decant the wash and repeat two (2) additional times.**
- 8. Add 0.100ml (100µl) of working substrate solution to all wells (see Reagent Preparation Section). **Always add reagents in the same order to minimize reaction time differences between wells.**
- 9. **DO NOT SHAKE THE PLATE AFTER SUBSTRATE ADDITION**
- 9. Incubate at room temperature for fifteen (15) minutes.
- 10. Add 0.050ml (50µl) of stop solution to each well and gently mix for 15-20 seconds. **Always add reagents in the same order to minimize reaction time differences between wells.**
- 11. Read the absorbance in each well at 450nm (using a reference wavelength of 620-630nm to minimize well imperfections) in a microplate reader. **The results should be read within thirty (30) minutes of adding the stop solution.**

10.0 CALCULATION OF RESULTS

A dose response curve is used to ascertain the concentration of Free Testosterone in unknown specimens within the analytical measuring range of 0.11-60 pg/ml.

- 1. Record the absorbance obtained from the printout of the microplate reader as outlined in Example 1.
- 2. Plot the absorbance for each duplicate serum reference versus the corresponding Free Testosterone concentration in pg/ml on linear graph paper.
- 3. Connect the points with a best-fit curve.
- 4. To determine the concentration of Free Testosterone for an unknown, locate the average absorbance of the duplicates for each unknown on the vertical axis of the graph, find the intersecting point on the curve, and read the concentration (in pg/ml) from the horizontal axis of the graph (the duplicates of the unknown may be averaged as indicated). In the following example, the average absorbance 0.989 intersects the dose response curve at 2.87pg/ml Free Testosterone concentration.

Note: Computer data reduction software designed for ELISA assays may also be used for the data reduction. **If such software is utilized, the validation of the software should be ascertained.**



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EXAMPLE 1

Sample I.D.	Well Number	Abs (A)	Mean Abs (B)	Value (pg/ml)
Cal A	A1	2.867	2.867	0.0
	B1	2.867		
Cal B	C1	2.489	2.470	0.2
	D1	2.451		
Cal C	E1	1.509	1.533	1.0
	F1	1.556		
Cal D	G1	1.071	1.084	2.5
	H1	1.097		
Cal E	A2	0.620	0.614	7.5
	B2	0.608		
Cal F	C2	0.333	0.318	20
	D2	0.303		
Cal G	E2	0.171	0.168	60
	F2	0.165		
Ctrl L	G2	1.333	1.384	1.339
	H2	1.434		
Ctrl M	A3	0.734	0.737	5.284
	B3	0.739		
Ctrl N	C3	0.192	0.187	47.107
	D3	0.182		
Patient	C4	0.997	0.989	2.870
	D4	0.980		

*The data presented in Example 1 and Figure 1 is for illustration only and **should not** be used in lieu of a standard curve prepared with each assay.

11.0 Q.C. PARAMETERS

In order for the assay results to be considered valid the following criteria should be met:

- The absorbance (OD) of calibrator 0 pg/ml should be ≥ 1.3 .

12.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The MSDS and Risk Analysis Form for this product is available on request from Monobind Inc.

12.1 Assay Performance

- It is important that the time of reaction in each well is held constant to achieve reproducible results.
- Pipetting of samples should not extend beyond ten (10) minutes to avoid assay drift.
- Highly lipemic, hemolyzed or grossly contaminated specimen(s) should not be used.
- If more than one (1) plate is used, it is recommended to repeat the dose response curve.
- The addition of substrate solution initiates a kinetic reaction, which is terminated by the addition of the stop solution. The substrate and stop solution should be added in the same sequence to eliminate any time-deviation during reaction.
- Plate readers measure vertically. Do not touch the bottom of the wells.
- Failure to remove adhering solution adequately in the aspiration or decantation wash step(s) may result in poor replication and spurious results.
- Use components from the same lot. No intermixing of reagents from different batches.
- Accurate and precise pipetting, as well as following the exact time and temperature requirements prescribed are essential. Any deviation from IFU may yield inaccurate results.
- All applicable national standards, regulations and laws, including, but not limited to, good laboratory procedures, must be followed to ensure compliance and proper device usage.
- It is important to calibrate all the equipment e.g. Pipettes, Readers, Washers and/or the automated instruments used with this device, and to perform routine preventative maintenance.
- Risk Analysis- as required by CE Mark IVD Directive 98/79/EC - for this and other devices, made by Monobind, can be requested via email from Monobind@monobind.com.

12.2 Interpretation

- Measurements and interpretation of results must be performed by a skilled individual or trained professional.**
- Laboratory results alone are only one aspect for determining patient care and should not be the sole basis for therapy, particularly if the results conflict with other determinants.
- The reagents for the test system procedure have been formulated to eliminate maximal interference; however, potential interaction between rare serum specimens and test reagents can cause erroneous results. Heterophilic antibodies often cause these interactions and have been known to be problems for all kinds of immunoassays. (Boscato LM Stuart MC. 'Heterophilic antibodies: a problem for all immunoassays' Clin.Chem. 1988:3427-33). For diagnostic purposes, the results from this assay should be used in combination with clinical examination, patient history, and other clinical findings.
- For valid test results, adequate controls and other parameters must be within the listed ranges and assay requirements.
- If test kits are altered, such as by mixing parts of different kits, which could produce false test results, or if results are incorrectly interpreted, **Monobind shall have no liability.**
- If computer controlled data reduction is used to interpret the results of the test, it is imperative that the predicted values for the calibrators fall within 10% of the assigned concentrations.

13.0 EXPECTED RANGES OF VALUES

In agreement with established reference intervals for a "normal" adult population, the expected ranges for the Free Testosterone AccuBind® ELISA Test System are detailed in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Population	Range (in pg/ml)
Male / 20-39	9.2-34.6
Male / 40-59	6.1-30.3
Male / ≥ 60	6.1-27.9
Female / 20-39	0.2-6.1
Female / 40-59	0.3-4.4
Female / ≥ 60	0.5-3.4

It is important to keep in mind that establishment of a range of values, which can be expected to be found by a given method for a population of "normal" persons, is dependent upon a multiplicity of factors: the specificity of the method, the population tested and the precision of the method in the hands of the analyst. For these reasons, each laboratory should depend upon the range of expected values established by the Manufacturer only until an in-house range can be determined by the analysts using the method with a population indigenous to the area in which the laboratory is located.

14.0 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

14.1 Accuracy

The Free Testosterone AccuBind® ELISA Test System was compared with a reference ELISA method. Biological specimens from low, normal, and elevated concentrations were assayed. The total number of such specimens was 137. The least square regression equation and the correlation coefficient were computed.

TABLE 2

	Least Square Regression Analysis	Correlation Coefficient
Monobind (y)	$y=1.017x-0.24$	0.997
Reference (x)		

14.2 Precision

This study was conducted during 20 days of testing. The human serum and control sample were tested in duplicate, two times per day for a total of 80 measurements per sample. Three (3) different reagent lots, three (3) serum pools, and three (3) controls were used for the study (low, medium, and high concentration). The results of a representative lot are shown below:

TABLE 3

Lot	Mean (pg/ml)	Within-Run		Total	
		SD	CV%	SD	CV%
Ctrl 1	2.51	0.09	3.7%	0.20	7.8%
Ctrl 2	10.98	0.40	3.6%	0.96	8.7%
Ctrl 3	22.72	0.83	3.6%	2.18	9.6%
Serum 1	0.98	0.06	5.9%	0.12	12.4%
Serum 2	4.53	0.26	5.7%	0.36	8.0%
Serum 3	53.62	4.24	7.9%	4.32	8.1%

TABLE 4

	Mean (pg/ml)	Within-Run Precision		Within-Kit Precision		Total Precision (n=80)	
		SD	CV%	SD	CV%	SD	CV%
Ctrl 1	2.48	0.11	4.57	0.20	8.20	0.21	8.51
Ctrl 2	11.04	0.47	4.23	0.84	2.60	0.87	8.00
Ctrl 3	23.24	1.00	4.31	1.80	7.73	1.83	7.95
Pnt 1	0.97	0.05	4.88	0.09	9.14	0.08	9.43
Pnt 2	4.62	0.23	4.88	0.32	6.89	0.33	7.20
Pnt 3	54.66	3.25	5.95	3.92	7.17	4.13	7.55

14.3 Detection Limits

The LOB (limit of the blank), the LOD (limit of detection) and the LOQ (limit of quantitation) were determined in accordance with CLSI EP 17-A A guideline, Protocols for Determination of Limits of Detection).

TABLE 5

LoB	LoD	LoQ
0.0295 pg/ml	0.0519 pg/ml	0.0519 pg/ml

14.4 Cross Reactivity

Cross reactivity was determined by testing those compounds most likely to interfere with the Monobind Free Testosterone ELISA Test System. The specificity of the assay was determined in accordance with CLSI EP07-A2. The results of the cross-reactivity study are as follows.

TABLE 6

Sample	Conc. (ng/ml)	Cross Reactivity	
		Spiked Serum	Blank Serum
11-Deoxycortisol	1000	0.000%	ND
11-KetoTestosterone	10	0.647%	0.519%
11 β -Hydroxytestosterone	100	0.065%	0.054%
17 α -ethynyl estradiol	1000	0.000%	ND
17 α -Estradiol	1000	0.000%	0.000%
17 β -Estradiol	100	0.000%	ND
17-Hydroxypregnenolone	1000	0.000%	ND
17-Hydroxprogesterone	10	0.000%	0.000%
3-EstriolGluc	1000	0.000%	ND
3-EstriolSul	1000	0.000%	ND
3 β -Androstanediol	500	0.000%	ND
5 α -Dihydrotestosterone	100	0.054%	0.042%
Aldosterone	8000	0.000%	0.000%

Amitriptyl HCl	1000	0.000%	ND
Androsterone	1000	0.000%	ND
Androstenedione	1000	0.004%	0.002%
Clomiphene Citrate	1000	0.000%	ND
Corsticosterone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Corstisone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Cortisol	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Cyproterone acetate	1000	0.000%	ND
D-5-Androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol	1000	0.000%	ND
Danazol	1000	0.000%	ND
DHEA	100000	0.000%	0.000%
DHEA-S	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Desogestrel	100	0.000%	ND
Dexamethasone	1000	0.000%	ND
Epitestosterone	1000	0.001%	0.001%
Estrilol	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Estrone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Ethisterone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Ethinodiol	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Ethinodiol diacetate	50	0.000%	ND
Flunisolide	1000	0.000%	ND
Fluoxymesterone	1000	0.000%	ND
Lynestrol	1000	0.000%	ND
Medoxyprogesterone acetate	1000	0.000%	ND
Methyl Testosterone	100	0.000%	ND
Mestranol	1000	0.000%	ND
Norethindrone	50	0.000%	ND
Norethindrone acetate	50	0.000%	ND
Norgestimate	1000	0.000%	ND
Norgestrel (Levonorgestrel)	50	0.000%	ND
Norethynodrel	50	0.000%	ND
Oxymetholone	100	0.000%	ND
Prednisolone	1000	0.000%	ND
Prednisone	800	0.000%	0.000%
Progesterone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Salbutamol	1000	0.000%	ND
Spirolactone	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Stanozolol	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Testosterone Cypionate	12	0.002%	0.000%
Testosterone enanthate	100	0.000%	0.000%
Testosterone SO4	1000	0.004%	0.003%
Testosterone Propionate	1000	0.000%	0.000%
Testosterone Undecanoate	12	0.011%	0.053%
Triamcinolone	50	0.000%	0.000%

14.5 Interference

Using CLSI-A2 Interference Testing in Clinical Chemistry as a guide, potential interferents were tested utilizing charcoal-stripped human serum spiked with known concentrations of interferent. The following results of % binding values even at higher than normal interferent levels indicate that there is no significant binding on the free testosterone-HRP conjugate.

TABLE 7

Substance	Highest concentration at which no significant interference was observed
Acetaminophen	20 mg/dl
Acetylcysteine	150 mg/dl
Ascorbic Acid	6 mg/dl
Bilirubin Conjugated	15 mg/dl
Bilirubin Unconjugated	20 mg/dl
Biotin	100 ng/ml
Caffeine	6 mg/dl
Cholesterol	503 mg/dl
Creatine	30 mg/dl
Dextran	5000 mg/dl
Digoxin	6.1 ng/ml
Doxycycline	50 mg/L
Erythromycin	6 mg/dl
Gentamicin	1 mg/dl
HAMA	440 ng/ml
Heparin	3 U/ml
Hemoglobin	500 mg/dl
Human Serum Albumin	2.5 g/dl
Ibuprofen	50 mg/dl
Immunoglobulin G	4 g/dl
Levodopa	20 mg/L
Lidocaine	1.2 mg/dl
Lipemia (glycerides)	1000 mg/dl
Methyldopa	20 mg/L
Nicotine	0.1 mg/dl
Phenobarbital	15 mg/dl
Protein: Total	10.5 g/dl
Rheumatoid Factor	1110 IU/ml
Salicylic Acid	60 mg/dl
SHBG	200 μ g/ml
Triglycerides	900 mg/dl
Urea	500 mg/dl

15.0 REFERENCES

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 MP5325 Product Code: 5325-300

Size	96(A)	192(B)	
Reagent (fill)	A	1ml set	1ml set
	B	1ml set	1ml set
	C	1 (6ml)	2 (6ml)
	D	1 plate	2 plates
	E	1 (20ml)	1 (20ml)
	F	1 (7ml)	2 (7ml)
	G	1 (7ml)	2 (7ml)
	H	1 (8ml)	2 (8ml)

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