

RAPIDPoint® 500 Blood Gas System
RAPIDPoint® 500e Blood Gas System

Potential for Low Na⁺ Values and Question Result Error flags

Our records indicate that your facility may have received the following products:

Table 1. Affected Products

| Siemens Material Number (SMN) | Description | Unique Device Identifier (UDI) |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 10844813 | RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridge (with Lactate) – 100 | 00630414947556 |
| 10491447 | RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridge (with Lactate) – 250 | 00630414589756 |
| 10491448 | RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridge (with Lactate) – 400 | 00630414589763 |
| 10491449 | RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridge (with Lactate) – 750 | 00630414589770 |

Reason for Urgent Field Safety Notice

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of a potential issue only with the products indicated in Table 1 above and provide instructions on actions that your laboratory must take.

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc. has confirmed an issue with RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridges (with lactate). This issue has the potential to affect the Sodium (Na⁺) sensor, as well as cause a *Question Result “-----?” error flag* for multiple electrolytes on patient samples and quality control.

When the Na⁺ sensor is affected, Na⁺ slope calibration errors (D3) will be seen in the Recall events log during cartridge initialization, resulting in low Na⁺ values. The maximum sodium bias on internal testing and reported by customers comparing results to other direct method analyzers was <10 mM. To date, the impact to Na⁺ results has been observed in less than 1% of the RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridges (with lactate).

The *Question Result “-----?” error flag* has been observed on electrolytes. This may occur at any time over the life of the cartridge.

Based on our investigation thus far, these issues are due to an electronic noise that is observed on RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridges (with lactate). Measurement cartridges without lactate are not affected.

Siemens is continuing to investigate and monitor the issue.

Recommended Workarounds

Workaround: Na⁺ Sensor issue

Siemens is recommending the following actions to address the Na⁺ Sensor issue for customers using RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridges (with lactate):

Option 1.

- Turn off Na⁺ if your institution does not need to report this analyte or use alternate methods to report Na⁺. Once Na⁺ is turned off, run other analytes as normal. Please refer to the RAPIDPoint 500/500e Operator's Guide for instructions on how to turn off an analyte.

Option 2.

- If your institution would like to continue reporting Na⁺ on a measurement cartridge with lactate, you must follow this action below to mitigate the probability of occurrence of this issue:
 - a. When installing a new RAPIDPoint 500 Systems Measurement Cartridge (with lactate), allow the system to complete its initialization period in approximately 24 minutes.
 - b. Review the Recall events log for Na⁺ D3 slope errors.
 - c. If there are
 - No Na⁺ D3 slope errors, proceed with using the cartridge.
 - any Na⁺ D3 slope errors, DO NOT USE. Replace the cartridge (repeat steps a-b).

Option 3.

- If your institution does not report lactate or you choose not to follow Options 1 or 2, please contact Siemens to inquire about getting a non-lactate measurement cartridge.

Workaround: Repeated Question Result "-----?" error flag

Siemens is recommending customers who are experiencing repeated *Question Result "-----?" error flag* for electrolytes follow the instructions stated in the RAPIDPoint 500/500e Operator's Guide. If the *Question Result "-----?" error flag* persists, please replace the cartridge.

Risk to Health

The RAPIDPoint 500 and RAPIDPoint 500e Benchtop Blood Gas Analyzers were confirmed to display a *Question Result "-----?" error flag* for multiple analytes resulting in an apparent delay and/or a negative sodium bias which may not be apparent to the operator.

A negative sodium bias could result in serious injury due to a delayed diagnosis of hypernatremia or unnecessary intervention for hyponatremia especially if the true sodium result is near the thresholds of severe alterations. This issue is mitigated by deviation from historical results and discordance from the clinical presentation of the patient. When analyte abnormalities are identified,

especially those discordant with clinical presentation, confirmatory testing is often completed prior to acute management.

If a *Question Result “-----?” error flag* is obtained, this issue is mitigated by the presence of an error flag and specimen re-application to the same or alternate device, possibly requiring specimen re-collection. As the device is commonly used near the patient, the delay is expected to be short.

As with all diagnostic tests, a definitive clinical diagnosis should not be based on the results of a single test but must be made by the physician after all clinical and laboratory findings are evaluated.

Actions to be Taken by the Customer

- Please review this letter with your Medical Director to determine the appropriate course of action, including for any previously generated results, if applicable.
- If you experience this issue, you may request a no-charge replacement or receive a credit from your local Siemens Healthineers representative.
- Please retain this letter with your laboratory records and forward this letter to those who may have received this product.

We apologize for the inconvenience this situation may cause. Siemens Healthineers is conducting a comprehensive evaluation with a cross-functional team to promptly resolve the issue with utmost priority. If you have any questions, please contact your Siemens Healthineers Customer Care Center or your local Siemens Healthineers technical support representative.

Additional Information

RAPIDPoint is a trademark of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc.