



INSTRUCTION FOR USE

Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit

For Research Use Only



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CONTENTS

1. INTENDED USE	3
2. PRINCIPLE of the PROCEDURE	4
3. KIT COMPONENTS	5
4. EQUIPMENT and MATERIALS REQUIRED but NOT PROVIDED	7
5. WARNING and PRECAUTIONS	8
6. HANDLING, STORAGE, and STABILITY	9
7. TEST PROCEDURE	10
7.1. Sample Preparation and Nucleic Acid Extraction	10
7.2. PCR Reaction Preparation and Processing	10
8. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS	12
8.1. Calculation of Cq Values and Instrument-Specific Requirements.....	12
8.2. Overall Validity of Detection	12
8.3. Interpretation of Unknown Specimen Results.....	13
9. ASSAY LIMITATIONS	14
10. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS	15
10.1. Analytical Sensitivity (Limit of Detection, LoD).....	15
10.2. Device Equivalence Study	15
10.3. Analytical Reactivity (Inclusivity)	16
10.3.1. In-Slico Analytical Reactivity	16
10.3.2. Wet-Test Analytical Reactivity	17
10.4. Analytical Specificity (Exclusivity)	18
10.4.1. In-Slico Analytical Specificity.....	18
10.4.2. Wet-Test Analytical Specificity.....	19
10.5. Interferences	21
11. TROUBLESHOOTING	21
12. EXPLANATION of SYMBOLS	24

1. INTENDED USE

For Research Use Only (RUO). Not for use in diagnostic procedures. No claim or representation is intended to provide information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease. Furthermore, this test kit is not intended for the diagnosis of infectious diseases in animals.

The **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** is a multiplex, qualitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) test intended for the simultaneous detection and identification of multiple pathogenic nucleic acids in research samples. The kit enables qPCR results in less than one hour. It is designed to detect gene sequences from the following organisms:

Targets	
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	
Controls	
Human RNase P (IC)	
<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i> (EC)	

2. PRINCIPLE of the PROCEDURE

DNA target regions are amplified using real-time PCR instruments, along with the specific primer and probe sets provided in the kit. During amplification, each probe binds to a specific target sequence located between the forward and reverse primers. During the extension phase of the PCR cycle, the 5' nuclease activity of Taq polymerase cleaves the probe, separating the reporter dye from the quencher and generating a fluorescent signal. With each cycle, more reporter dye molecules are released, resulting in an increase in fluorescence intensity. Fluorescence is measured at each cycle by the real-time PCR instrument. Probes labeled with distinct fluorophores are used to detect specific amplicons derived from both the target sequences and the internal control. The PCR instrument monitors the fluorescence signals in real time and interprets the data to provide a qualitative result for each target. A positive result for the presence of target DNA is indicated by the appearance of a real-time PCR amplification curve and a corresponding C_q (Quantification Cycle) value.

3. KIT COMPONENTS

The **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** consists of three main components:

1. qPCR Enzyme, Buffer, Forward, Reverse and Probe Mix (Pre-Plated STIP Mix 1-4)
2. A mixture of non-infectious DNA from artificial samples, including the targets listed in the table below (PC-STIP)
3. DNase/RNase-Free Water (NTC-STIP)

The components of the kit are provided in Table 1-2.

Table 1. Kit components.

Component	Description	Quantity x Volume
		96 rxn PP-STI 006
Pre-Plated STIP Mix 1-4	Ready-to-use mix for qPCR	48 Strips (15 µL)
PC-STIP	A mixture of non-infectious DNA from artificial samples, including the targets listed in the table below	1 x 400 µL
NTC-STIP	DNase/RNase-Free Water	1 x 400 µL
PC-STIP Pre-Mix	A mixture of non-infectious cDNA and DNA from artificial samples + Oligo + Master Mix	1 x 200 µL
NTC-STIP Pre-Mix	DNase/RNase-Free Water + Oligo + Master Mix	1 x 200 µL

Table 2. Oligo Mix target organisms and detection channels.

Vial Name	Target	Channel
STIP Oligo Mix 1	Herpes Simplex Virus 1	FAM
	Herpes Simplex Virus 2	HEX/VIC/JOE
	-	ROX/Texas Red
	Human RNase P (IC)	CY5
STIP Oligo Mix 2	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	FAM
	<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	HEX/VIC/JOE
	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	ROX/Texas Red
	-	CY5
STIP Oligo Mix 3	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	FAM
	-	HEX/VIC/JOE
	<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	ROX/Texas Red
	-	CY5
	<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	FAM

STIP Oligo Mix 4	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	HEX/VIC/JOE
	-	ROX/Texas Red

	<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i> (EC)	CY5
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The oligonucleotide set targeting the human *RNase P* (Internal Control: IC) and *Bacillus atrophaeus* (External Control: EC) are used to monitor sampling, nucleic acid extraction, and inhibition of qPCR. The kit also contains negative and positive control templates to evaluate contamination and the qPCR reagent stability, respectively.

4. EQUIPMENT and MATERIALS REQUIRED but NOT PROVIDED

- 2-8°C Refrigerator
- ≤ -20°C Freezer
- ≤ -70°C Freezer (Optional)
- Vortex mixer
- Benchtop centrifuge with rotor for 1.5 mL tubes
- Benchtop mini centrifuge with rotor for PCR strips
- Benchtop plate centrifuge
- Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC)
- PCR cabinet for PCR Setup
- Adjustable Micropipettes: 1-10, 10-100, 100-1000 µL
- Sterile DNase/RNase free micropipettes tips - Compatible with the micropipettes
- Cold tube rack for microfuge tubes (1.5/2 mL) and for PCR tubes (0.1/0.2 mL)
- Disposable, powder-free, nitrile gloves
- Disposable (preferably) laboratory coat
- Surface decontaminants - Freshly diluted 10% bleach solution (0.5% NaClO)
- Applied Biosystems QuantStudio 5, 7, and 12K with Design & Analysis software and consumables
- Bio-Rad CFX96 Touch™/CFX96™ Dx/CFX Opus 96™/CFX Opus 96™ Dx with Maestro software v1.1 and consumables

5. WARNING and PRECAUTIONS

- The ***MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit*** is intended for research use only and should be used by professionally trained, qualified personnel. All procedures should be performed in accordance with Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).
- Biological material used for nucleic acid extraction should be handled as potentially infectious. Appropriate safety precautions are recommended when handling biological material (e.g., do not pipet by mouth; wear disposable gloves; disinfect hands after completing the test).
- Biological material should be inactivated before disposal (e.g., autoclaving). Disposable items should be autoclaved or incinerated after use.
- In the event of a spill involving potentially infectious materials, the spill should be immediately absorbed with paper tissue, and the affected area should be disinfected using a suitable standard disinfectant or 70% alcohol. Materials used for cleaning spills, including gloves, should be inactivated before disposal (e.g., autoclaving).
- Disposal of all samples, unused reagents and waste should be in accordance with country, federal, state, and local regulations.
- To avoid microbial contamination of reagents during aliquoting, it is recommended to use sterile, single-use pipettes and tips. Reagents that appear cloudy or show signs of microbial contamination should not be used.
- The kit should be stored away from nucleic acid sources and PCR amplicons to prevent contamination.
- Always check the expiration date on the kit. Do not use expired or improperly stored kits.
- Components in the kit should not be mixed with components from different lot numbers or from different manufacturers, even if they contain the same components.
- The kit components should be gently mixed before use by shaking.
- A common issue with PCR-based assays is false positive results caused by contamination from PCR amplicons. To minimize the risk of amplicon contamination:
 - Ensure separate work areas with dedicated apparatus are available for each stage of the procedure.
 - Do not open reaction tubes/plates post-amplification to avoid contamination with amplicons.
 - Discard used tubes/plates immediately in a biohazard container after completing the run.
 - Minimize handling of tubes/plates after testing.
 - Change gloves after handling used tubes/plates.

6. HANDLING, STORAGE, and STABILITY

- The **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** is shipped on dry ice. If any component is not frozen upon arrival or if the outer packaging has been compromised during shipment, please contact **MarinaBiolab** or the local distributor immediately.
- Upon arrival, all components should be stored between -25°C and -15°C.
- Repeated freezing and thawing of the kit components may reduce detection quality. The kit can withstand up to 15 freeze/thaw cycles without impacting performance.
- When stored under the specified conditions, the kit remains stable until the expiration date printed on the package. The expiration date is 12 months from the date of manufacture.
- All components must be thawed at ambient temperature for at least 30 minutes before use.
- It is recommended to keep all components on ice when preparing the assay mixes.
- The primer and probe mixes contain fluorophore-labeled probes and should be protected from direct sunlight and prolonged exposure to ambient light.
- Do not use expired or improperly stored components.

7. TEST PROCEDURE

7.1. Sample Preparation and Nucleic Acid Extraction

Samples intended for nucleic acid isolation must be collected using appropriate cell collection systems. The performance of the kit is highly dependent on both the quantity and quality of the extracted nucleic acid. Ensure that the extraction method used is compatible with real-time PCR technology.

If the laboratory's established standard protocol is used for nucleic acid isolation, it must be validated by the end user.

For frozen samples or previously extracted nucleic acid, thaw only the amount required for testing on the same day. Avoid multiple freeze/thaw cycles, as these can compromise nucleic acid integrity. For best results, use the nucleic acid immediately after thawing.

7.2. PCR Reaction Preparation and Processing

- Determine the number of reactions needed and prepare a PCR plate layout accordingly.
- The plate layout should include the following:
 - Reactions for each test sample and extraction negative control.
 - PCR control reactions:
 - Positive Control (provided in the kit)
 - Negative (No Template) Control (NTC) (provided in the kit)
- Completely thaw all components at room temperature for at least 30 minutes prior to use.
- When they thaw, vortex and **spin down** briefly the components and place them on cold block during the whole test procedure.
- Use 4 wells for each sample or control. One strip contains 8 wells and for 2 samples.
- The orientations of Strip should be as shown below.



Strip

- Open carefully the strips (gently open it from the side way, DO NOT PEEL OFF THE LID) and add 5 µL of the isolated sample or control to the corresponding wells or 20 µL of Pre-Mix PC or NTC to an empty well.
- .
- The final reaction mix volume is 20 µL.
- Re-cap the strips and **spin down** for 5 seconds.
- Insert strips into the real-time PCR instrument and amplify according to the following PCR profile.

For each run, use one well of PC-Mix and one well of NTC-Mix as shown in the diagram below. 4 empty strips for PC-Mix and NTC-Mix are included in the box.

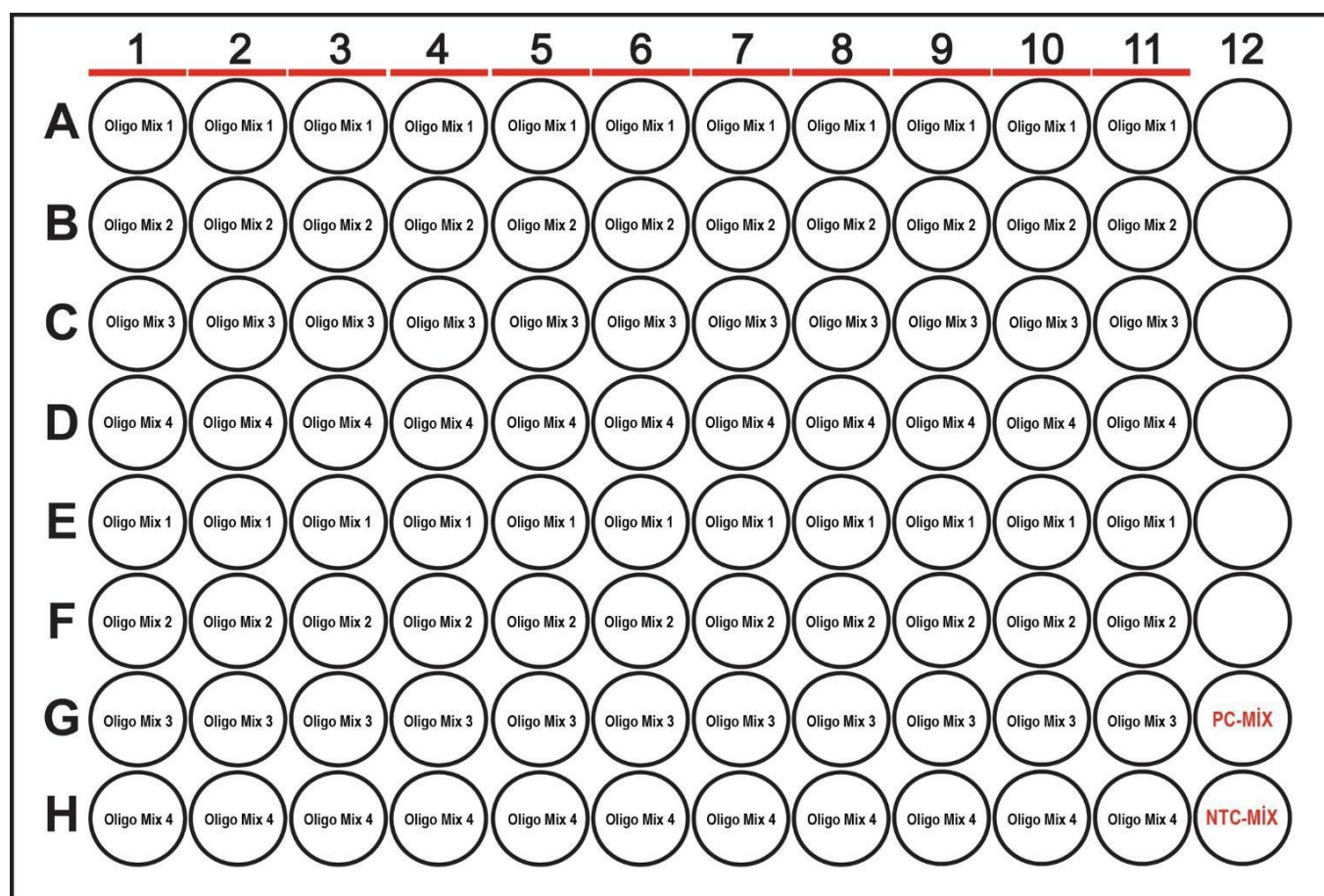


Table 3. Amplification profile.

Step	Number of Cycles	Temperature	Time	Data Collection
Initial Denaturation	1	95 °C	10 sec	FAM HEX/VIC/JOE ROX/Texas Red CY5
Denaturation	40	95 °C	5 sec	
Annealing/Extension		55 °C	15 sec	

8. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit provides a qualitative result for the presence (Detected) or absence (Not Detected) of the target genes.

8.1. Calculation of Cq Values and Instrument-Specific Requirements

Configure the following instrument settings before evaluating the results.

Table 4. Instrument-specific settings.

Instrument	Threshold Level	Other Settings
CFX96 Touch™/CFX96™ Dx/CFX Opus 96™/CFX Opus 96™ Dx (Bio-Rad)	500 RFU	-
QuantStudio™ 5, 7 and 12K (Applied Biosystems™)	Auto	-

The shape of the amplification curves should be evaluated. If the instrument's software assigns a Cq value to a sample and the curve is sigmoidal, the Cq value can be used in the final assessment. *Non-sigmoidal curves should be recorded as negative.*

A result is considered positive if the Cq value is ≤ 35 , or as determined by your laboratory's protocols.

8.2. Overall Validity of Detection

Table 5. Expected performance of controls.

Control Type	Used to Monitor	Signal	
		Target Channel	Internal/External Control Channel
Negative Control	Cross-contamination during extraction and reaction setup	-	-
No template addition	Reagent and/or environmental contamination	-	-
Positive Control	qPCR reaction setup and reagent integrity	+	+
Internal/External Control	To monitor the integrity of nucleic acid extraction and qPCR from each specimen	Not applicable	+

Before analyzing sample results, we recommend verifying the validity of the real-time PCR test. For each run, please confirm that the Positive and Negative controls performed as expected, based on the following criteria:

Table 6. Run validity/positive and negative control pass criteria.

Positive Control		Negative Control		Results	Recommendation
Target Channel	Internal/External Control Channel	Target Channel	Internal/External Control Channel		
+	+	-	-	VALID	Proceed with the interpretation of sample results.

Any of them is Negative	Not considered	INVALID	Contact the manufacturer, replenish the reagents, and repeat the reaction.
Not considered	Any of them is Positive	INVALID	Repeat the analysis, ensuring to follow the 'Warnings and Precautions' outlined in the IFU.

If any control fails to perform as described above, the run is considered invalid and must be repeated. If the issue persists, contact the manufacturer.

If all controls perform as expected, proceed with the interpretation of the results.

8.3. Interpretation of Unknown Specimen Results

The data generated by the instruments can be manually evaluated and reported using their software.

Table 7. Interpretation of unknown specimen results for DNA pathogens.

DNA Pathogens	Internal Control (<i>RNase P</i>)	External Control (<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i>)	Results	Interpretation
Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive for Target	Target DNA is detected
Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive for Target	Target DNA is detected
Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Positive for Target	Target DNA is detected
Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Invalid	Repeat the test by re-extracting the sample. If the result remains invalid, consider collecting a new sample.
Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative for Target	Target DNA is not detected
Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative for Target	Target DNA is not detected
Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Positive (+) (Cq<35)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Negative for Target	Target DNA is not detected
Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Negative (-) (Cq≥35 or N/A)	Invalid	Repeat the test by re-extracting the sample. If the result remains invalid, consider collecting a new sample.

9. ASSAY LIMITATIONS

- The ***MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit*** is intended for use only by professionally trained and qualified staff.
- A false negative result may occur if the specimen is improperly collected, transported, or handled. False negatives can also occur if amplification inhibitors are present in the specimen or if insufficient numbers of organisms are present.
- Spontaneous mutations within the target sequences may result in failure to detect the target. While the test design mitigates this risk, if target detection failure is anticipated, it is recommended to test the specimen with a different assay that targets other sequences in the genome.
- There is a risk of false positive results due to cross-contamination by target viruses and/or bacteria, their nucleic acids or amplified products, or from non-specific signals in the assay. Proper handling of consumables, as outlined in the Warnings and Precautions section, is crucial to minimize this risk.
- This assay is qualitative and does not provide a quantitative assessment of the detected organism's concentration.
- All instruments (e.g., pipettes, real-time PCR cyclers) must be calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

10. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

10.1. Analytical Sensitivity (Limit of Detection, LoD)

The limit of detection (LoD) was defined as the concentration at which the test produces a positive result more than 95% of the time. Serial dilutions of the strains were tested, and the initial tentative LoD was confirmed with twenty (20) replicates. To ensure the accuracy of the LoD determination, if the initial detection rate was 100%, an additional twenty (20) replicates were performed at the next lower concentration until a detection rate of $\leq 95\%$ was achieved.

For nucleic acid extraction, a simulated research matrix was spiked with strains and processed using the Automatic Nucleic Acids Extraction Instrument. Testing was carried out on the CFX96 Touch™ (Bio-Rad) Real-Time PCR system. The confirmed LoDs for the strains tested, along with the corresponding LoDs for the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** reportable targets, are presented in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Summary of LoD study results.

Analyte	Isolate ID/Source	LoD Concentration (copies/mL)	Detected/Total
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	ATCC VR-1778	1.2E+02 copies/mL	20/20 100%
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Zeptomatrix 0810217CF	3.7E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	In-house	6.9E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	ATCC 49145	1.5E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801775	5.8E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	ATCC 19424	6.0E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	ATCC BAA-55	7.8+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801736DNA	2.5E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	ATCC 30001	2.5E+01 copies/mL	20/20 100%

10.2. Device Equivalence Study

A device equivalence study was conducted to assess the differences in results obtained using the kit across various instruments. For this purpose, the same LoD determination study was repeated using the Bio-Rad CFX96™ Dx/CFX Opus 96™/CFX Opus 96™ Dx/CFX384 Touch™/CFX Opus 384™, Applied Biosystems QuantStudio 5, 7, and 12K, Qiagen Rotor-Gene Q 5plex Platform, and Roche

LightCycler 480. Similar results were obtained at the 1x LoD concentration level of the targets in the device equivalence study across the different instruments.

10.3. Analytical Reactivity (Inclusivity)

10.3.1. In-Silico Analytical Reactivity

A BLAST search of the oligonucleotides was conducted on the genome sequences of Herpes Simplex Virus 1, Herpes Simplex Virus 2, *Treponema pallidum*, *Gardnerella vaginalis*, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Haemophilus ducreyi*, and *Trichomonas vaginalis* using the Primer-BLAST tool on the NCBI database.

The aggregated results of all in-silico analyses performed using the NCBI database are provided in the table below. The melting temperatures (T_m) of the oligonucleotide sequences with a 1-base mismatch remain higher than the annealing temperature specified in the PCR cycle parameters of the kit. Therefore, single base mismatches in the sequences are not expected to impact the inclusivity of the test.

Table 9. In-silico analysis results performed in the NCBI database.

Target	Primer	Total number of target sequences	Ratio of the sequences without mismatch	Ratio of the sequences with 1 base mismatch	Ratio of the sequences with 2 base mismatches	Ratio of the sequences with 3 base mismatches
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	Sense Primer	622	99.67%	0.23%	0.00%	0.00%
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	Antisense Primer	625	99.25%	0.75%	0.00%	0.00%
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	Hydrolysis Probe	625	99.20%	0.80%	0.00%	0.00%
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Sense Primer	454	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Antisense Primer	462	99.81%	0.19%	0.00%	0.00%
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Hydrolysis Probe	462	99.89%	0.11%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	Sense Primer	538	99.64%	0.36%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	Antisense Primer	538	99.64%	0.36%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	538	99.50%	0.50%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	Sense Primer	52	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	Antisense Primer	52	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	50	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Sense Primer	862	99.64%	0.36%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Antisense Primer	862	99.64%	0.36%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	846	99.60%	0.40%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Sense Primer	597	99.20%	0.80%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Antisense Primer	597	99.20%	0.80%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	590	99.05%	0.80%	0.05%	0.00%

<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	Sense Primer	44	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	Antisense Primer	44	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	44	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Sense Primer	40	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Antisense Primer	40	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	40	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	Sense Primer	63	99.79%	0.21%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	Antisense Primer	63	99.79%	0.21%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	Hydrolysis Probe	60	99.75%	0.25%	0.00%	0.00%

10.3.2. Wet-Test Analytical Reactivity

The analytical reactivity (inclusivity) of the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** was demonstrated using a comprehensive panel that represents the temporal, evolutionary, and geographic diversity of each target organism.

Each sample was tested in triplicate with the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** at an initial concentration 3-fold higher than the LoD determined for each analyte. In cases where the expected targets were not detected in one or more replicates, concentrations 3-fold higher were evaluated.

The individual strains and the concentrations at which positive test results were obtained for all three replicates are presented by target organisms in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Results of the wet inclusivity test.

Variant/Type/Subtype/Lineage/Genotype/Species	Isolate ID/Source	xLoD Detected
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	ATCC VR-1778	1x
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Zeptomatrix 0810217CF	1x
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	In-house	1x
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	ATCC 49145	1x
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801775	1x
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	ATCC 19424	1x
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	ATCC BAA-55	1x
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801736DNA	1x
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	ATCC 30001	1x

10.4. Analytical Specificity (Exclusivity)

10.4.1. In-Slico Analytical Specificity

Primers and probes designed for a target sequence may also bind to similar sequences if they closely match or differ by only a few base pairs from a non-targeted sequence. To ensure specificity to the target sequence, it is essential to screen the primers and probes against the reference database for the intended templates, as well as any databases that may contain potential contaminating templates.

Table 11. The results of On-Panel and Off-Panel organisms tested for cross-reactivity.

On-Panel/Off-Panel	Name of the organism	Cross Reactivity*		
		Forward	Probe	Reverse
On-Panel	Herpes Simplex Virus 1	None	None	None
On-Panel	Herpes Simplex Virus 2	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	None	None	None
On-Panel	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Acinetobacter calcoaceticus</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Klebsiella aerogenes</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Morganella morganii</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	None	None	None

Off-Panel	<i>Aerococcus urinae</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida glabrata</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida krusei</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida auris</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida parapsilosis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Candida albicans</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus 16	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus 18	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus type 52	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus 6	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus 11	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus type 58	None	None	None
Off-Panel	Human papillomavirus type 33	None	None	None

* Homology should be <80% between the cross-reactivity microorganisms and the test primers/ probe(s).

10.4.2. Wet-Test Analytical Specificity

The potential for non-specific amplification by assays designed to detect analytes was evaluated by testing high concentrations of organisms or nucleic acids using the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit**. On-panel organisms were tested to assess potential intra-panel cross-reactivity, while off-panel organisms were tested to evaluate the specificity of the panel. Off-panel organisms included normal flora, pathogens that may be present in specimens, and genetically related species to those detected by the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit**. The concentration of organisms tested (in triplicate) was at least 1.0E+06 CFU/mL for bacteria, fungi, and parasites, and at least 1.0E+05 units/mL for viruses. For certain organisms that were not available for laboratory testing, in silico analysis of the organism's whole genome sequences was used. The on-panel and off-panel organisms tested are listed in Table 12 and Table 13.

Table 12. On-Panel organisms tested for evaluation of **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit** analytical specificity.

Organism	Isolate ID/Source	Cross Reactivity Detected
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	ATCC VR-1778	None
Herpes Simplex Virus 2	Zeptomatrix 0810217CF	None
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	In-house	None

<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	ATCC 49145	None
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801775	None
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	ATCC 19424	None
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	ATCC BAA-55	None
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801736DNA	None
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	ATCC 30001	None

Table 13. Off-Panel organisms were tested for evaluation of *MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit* analytical specificity.

Organism	Isolate ID/Source	Cross Reactivity Detected
<i>Acinetobacter calcoaceticus</i>	ATCC 23055	None
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	ATCC 19606	None
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	ATCC 29021	None
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	Zeptomatrix 0804216	None
<i>Klebsiella aerogenes</i>	ATCC 13048	None
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	ATCC 700324	None
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	Zeptomatrix 0804014	None
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	ATCC 10832	None
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	NCTC 13465	None
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801544	None
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	ATCC 12386	None
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	ATCC 6380	None
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	Zeptomatrix 0804010	None
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	Zeptomatrix 0801563	None
<i>Aerococcus urinae</i>	ATCC 51268	None
<i>Candida glabrata</i>	ATCC 90030	None
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	ATCC 750	None
<i>Candida krusei</i>	ATCC 2159	None
<i>Candida auris</i>	ATCC MYA-5003	None
<i>Candida parapsilosis</i>	ATCC 22019	None
<i>Candida albicans</i>	ATCC 10231	None
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	ATCC 25285	None

<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	ATCC 13090	None
Human papillomavirus 16	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus 18	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus type 52	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus 6	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus 11	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus type 58	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None
Human papillomavirus type 33	NIBSC-UK-EN63QG	None

10.5. Interferences

The potential for endogenous or exogenous substances, which may be present in research samples or introduced during sample collection and handling, to interfere with the accurate detection of analytes was evaluated through select direct testing on the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit**. The findings were extrapolated from the interference evaluation of the kit.

Potentially interfering substances were evaluated using contrived samples spiked with the substance of interest. Results from samples containing the substance were compared to those from control samples without the substance. The substances tested included endogenous compounds that may be present in samples at normal or elevated levels (e.g., blood, mucus/mucin, human genomic DNA), various commensal or infectious microorganisms, medications, washes or topical applications, swabs and transport media used for sample collection, and substances employed to clean, decontaminate, or disinfect work areas. Each substance was added to contrived samples containing representative organisms at concentrations near (3x) the LoD. The concentration of each substance added to the samples was equal to or greater than the highest level expected in research samples, and each sample was tested in triplicate.

None of the substances tested were found to interfere with the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit**.

Table 14. Evaluation of potentially interfering substances on the **MarinaBiolab Pre-Plated Sexually Transmitted Infection Panel PCR Kit**.

Substance Tested	Concentration Tested	Observed Interference
Endogenous Substances		
Human Blood	10% v/v	No Interference
Human Mucus	1 swab/mL sample	No Interference
Human Genomic DNA	20 ng/ μ L	No Interference
Human Urine	-	No Interference
Competitive Microorganisms		
Herpes Simplex Virus 1	1.0E+05 unit/mL	No Interference

Herpes Simplex Virus 2	1.0E+05 unit/mL	No Interference
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Fannyhessea vaginae</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	1.0E+06 CFU/mL	No Interference
Exogenous Substances		
K-Y Personal Lubricant Jelly	1% v/v	No Interference
Ortho Options Gynol II Extra Strength Vaginal Contraceptive Jelly	1% v/v	No Interference
Azithromycin	1.8 mg/mL	No Interference
Vagisil Creme Maximum Strength	1% w/v	No Interference
Aspirin	40 mg/mL	No Interference
Specimen Collection Materials		
Copan Liquid Amies Elution Swab (ESwab®)	N/A	No Interference

11. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Cause	Solution
Target-specific and/or internal control (IC) signals were detected in the Negative Control well.	Contamination may arise from the environment, contamination of extraction and/or qPCR reagents, or well-to-well cross-contamination. The signal observed is not true target amplification, but rather background curves generated by the software of the qPCR instrument.	Repeat the qPCR using fresh reagents. Follow the general GLP guidelines in a PCR lab (e.g., decontaminate all surfaces and instruments with sodium hypochlorite or ethanol, and ensure filter tips are used and changed between samples). It is recommended to set up the qPCR reactions in a separate area, where no RNA/DNA is handled, and with equipment designated solely for pre-PCR activities. Ignore the Cq value of the No Template Control (NTC) if the amplification curve appears to be background noise rather than a true signal. If the issue persists, contact Technical Support.
No IC signal is detected, but a target-specific signal is observed in the sample wells.	A high copy number of target nucleic acid in the samples leads to preferential amplification of the target-specific nucleic acid.	No action is required. The result is considered positive.
The Positive Control did not meet the criteria for acceptable values specified by the kit, rendering the assay invalid.	The Positive Control was not stored under the recommended conditions. The kit has expired.	Check the kit label for the recommended storage conditions and expiration date. Replace the Positive Control. If necessary, use a new kit.
High Cq values were observed in the repeated samples.	The frozen samples were not mixed properly after thawing. Nucleic acids may be degraded.	Ensure frozen samples are thawed with mild agitation to guarantee thorough mixing. Make sure samples are stored correctly and are not subjected to multiple freeze-thaw cycles.
Target-specific and/or IC signals were detected after 35 cycles in the Positive Control.	Incorrect qPCR set-up or the kit reagents may have been compromised (e.g., improper storage or more than 15 freeze-thaw cycles).	Replace the control. If the problem persists, contact Technical Support.
No target-specific or IC signals were detected in the sample wells.	Sampling, extraction, or inhibition problem.	Dilute the nucleic acid isolate 1:10 and repeat the qPCR. If the diluted sample does not show a positive result in the IC channel, request a new sample and repeat the nucleic acid extraction. If necessary, repeat the nucleic acid extraction and the qPCR. If the issue persists, request a new sample, repeat the nucleic acid extraction and qPCR. If the problem continues, contact Technical Support.

12. EXPLANATION of SYMBOLS

Symbol	Title of Symbol	Symbol	Title of Symbol
	Research Use Only		Use-by date
	Manufacturer		Batch code
	Negative control		Non-sterile
	Positive control		Consult instructions for use or consult electronic instructions for use
	Control		Caution
	Temperature limit		Catalogue number
	Keep away from sunlight		Do not use if package is damaged and consult instructions for use
	Keep dry		Keep upright
	Contains sufficient for <n> tests		Protect from heat and radioactive sources

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