



**Urgent Field Safety Notice  
Molecular Diagnostics at Abbott**

**Product:** Alinity m System

**List Number:** 08N53-002

**All Instruments**

**Unique Device Identifier (UDI):** 00884999048034

See Appendix A (Amplification Curve Examples)

December 6, 2021

Dear Abbott Customer,

This letter contains important information regarding your Alinity m System List Number 08N53-002. Please review this information carefully.

**Background**

Abbott Molecular Inc. has received two customer reports of Alinity m Resp-4-Plex false positive results and two customer reports of Alinity m STI false positive results due to abnormal amplification curves. Preliminary investigation has identified that the expansion and contraction of air in the Alinity m System Reaction Vessel (RV) during thermal cycling in front of the fluorescent detection window can potentially create air bubbles that interfere with fluorescent readout, resulting in abnormal (non-sigmoidal) amplification curves. Refer to Appendix A for examples of normal and abnormal amplification curves.

Abnormal curves are typically detected by validity checks with assay-specific parameters and are reported as invalids. In rare cases, when an error code is not generated related to the abnormal curve, a false positive result due to abnormal curves may be observed at the following rates: 0.0006% - 0.0012% for the Alinity m Resp-4-Plex assay and 0.00026% for the Alinity m STI assay.

**Potential Impact**

This issue is only observed in results for Alinity m Resp-4-Plex and Alinity m STI. No reports of false positives related to abnormal curves have been reported in Alinity m SARS-CoV-2, HBV, HCV, HIV-1, EBV, CMV, or HPV.

Abnormal curves are mitigated in the Alinity m Resp-4-Plex and Alinity m STI assays by adjusting the damp bar parameters in the Alinity m System. Lowering the damp bar increases pressure on the RV cap which reduces the motion of air bubbles within the fluorescent detection window leading to less optical noise. This aids in the control of any potential abnormal curves that may lead to invalids and/or false positives for Alinity m Resp-4-Plex and/or Alinity m STI.

There is no impact or change to the Alinity m Resp-4-Plex or Alinity m STI AMP Kit reagents. The damp bar adjustment will be implemented on all Alinity m Systems.

**Necessary Actions**

Please complete and return the Customer Reply form.

As an interim action until your Alinity m System(s) are updated, if a false positive result is suspected including results that have an associated error flag, evaluate the PCR curve generated for the result. Please see Appendix A for examples. If the amplification curve is abnormal (non-sigmoidal), retest the sample. Additionally, repeat tests when two or more analytes (e.g., SARS-



**Abbott**

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CoV-2, Flu A, Flu B, RSV for Alinity m Resp-4-Plex, or Chlamydia trachomatis (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG), Mycoplasma genitalium (MG) or Trichomonas vaginalis (TV) for Alinity m STI are positive in the same sample.

Please review this information with your Medical Director or physicians as appropriate and retain this communication for future reference. For handling previous positive results generated with the Alinity m Resp-4-Plex and/or Alinity m STI assays, follow your laboratory's standard operating procedures to investigate the potential for false positive results.

A Molecular Diagnostics Abbott Representative will be contacting you regarding damp bar adjustments at your site.

This field action is to be carried out at the user/customer level. If this product has been further distributed by your facility, please notify any additional impacted customers.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact your local Molecular Diagnostics Abbott representative. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused your laboratory.

Sincerely,

Xxx

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Appendix A

Per the Alinity m System Operations Manual (09N33-017 (54-605001/Rrn) Section 6 page 420, on the Results Graphs screen, the operator can view the graphical representations of the results detail data. The shape of PCR amplification curves can be visualized by selecting "Normalized" tab from the graph selections on the monitor. Below are examples of normal (sigmoidal) and abnormal (non-sigmoidal) PCR curves. These are typical normal and abnormal examples and are not inclusive of all curves that may be observed.

Normal (sigmoidal) PCR curve examples

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Abnormal (non-sigmoidal) PCR curve examples

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