



กรมวิทยาศาสตร์การแพทย์
Department of Medical Sciences

PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM 2019

Scheme Code D6204R1

pH Measurement

Protocol No. D6204R1

Organized by

Bureau of Drug and Narcotic
Department of Medical Sciences
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D6204R1: pH Measurement

1. ORGANIZER

Scheme Provider:

Bureau of Drug and Narcotic (BDN)
Department of Medical Sciences
88/7 Soi Bumrasnaradura Hospital, Tiwanon Road, Nonthaburi,
11000, THAILAND
Tel. +66 2951 0000 ext. 99137
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Scheme Coordinator:

Ms. Siriphorn Laomanacharoen
Pharmacist, Senior professional level
Email: pt_bdn@hotmail.com; pts.bdn@gmail.com
The scheme coordinator is responsible for all activities of the PT scheme.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Proficiency Testing (PT) scheme is to demonstrate that participants can accurately perform pH measurement of pharmaceutical substances, acetylcysteine. The scheme is based on the pH measurement, according to the method from the 41st revision of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP 41) in Acetylcysteine monograph.

3. SUBCONTRACT

BDN has no policy to subcontract in any activity of this proficiency testing scheme.

4. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

Participants who have competences to perform pH measurement (pH range 2-10) and use this technique in the routine work. Each participant is able to participate in the program for one set of PT sample.

5. NUMBER AND TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS

Number of participants: 20 – 70 laboratories

Type of participants: Quality control laboratories in pharmaceutical manufacturers and other testing laboratories



6. SCHEDULE OF PT SCHEME

The frequency of this PT program is at least one round per 2 years. Schedule for the PT activities is as follows:

Activity	Schedule
Call for participation	December 2018
Deadline for registration	31 January 2019
Distribution of samples	May 2019
Deadline for submission of results	28 June 2019
Interim report for comments	August 2019
Final report	September 2019

7. REGISTRATION

Registration Fee:

Local participants	500.- Baht
Oversea participants	200.- USD (Including shipping handling)

Payment:

Local participants-

The payment should be made by Teller payment system at any branches of Krung Thai Bank Public Company Limited.

Oversea participants-

The payment should be made by bank transfer to

Account name:	DMSc Non-Fiscal Budget Account
Account number:	130-1034924
Bank name:	Krung Thai Bank Public Company Limited
Branch address:	Tivanon Road, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand
Swift code:	KRTHTHBK

Method and Deadline for Registration:

Participants should register online via the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt> within **31 January 2019**. Registration by other means e.g. fax, Email will not be accepted.

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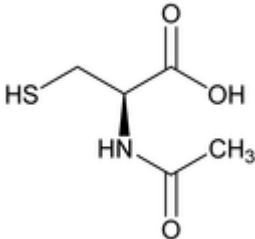
Terms and Conditions:

1. BDN reserves the right to occasionally delay the issue of PT program or use an appropriate substitute test material with prior warning to participants if the planned PT sample is not available according to the schedule of PT scheme.
2. The registration fees are nonrefundable.

More information can be viewed on the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt>.

8. PROFICIENCY TESTING SAMPLE

The sample of this scheme is pharmaceutical raw material, acetylcysteine with the details as follows.

Formula	$C_5H_9NO_3S$
Molar mass (g/mole)	163.19
Structure	

9. HANDLING OF PT SAMPLE

Participants will receive (i) a bottle of sample containing about 600 mg of acetylcysteine.

PT samples are packed in tightly closed amber glass bottle and vacuum plastic package. PT samples are labeled which show the details of name, amount and storage condition and distributed in ambient condition. The PT sample should be stored in the refrigerator between 2-8°C and protected from light and humidity until analysis.

PT samples are sent by express mail for local participants and by courier for oversea participants. It is the responsibility of the participants to contact BDN within three days if they have not received the PT sample within the time schedule. In case of international transport for oversea participants, BDN cannot be responsible for any delays from the custom clearance. Upon receipt of PT sample, participants are requested to check physical conditions of PT sample as well as other substances provided, complete a PT sample acknowledgement form and download testing protocol via the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt>.



10. TEST METHOD

Participants should determine pH value of the PT sample for one determination and report the results with **two digits after the decimal separator**. In case number of digit reported is different from that specified in the protocol, the results will be rounded to one digit by BDN. If the right of the last decimal place is smaller than 5, it is eliminated and the preceding digit is unchanged. If the right of the last decimal place is equal to or greater than 5, it is eliminated and the preceding digit is increased by 1. Results reported with no digit after decimal separator, 0 will be substituted for that specified in the protocol.

The measurement method is based on USP 41 in Acetylcysteine monograph and General Chapters:<791>pH.

Sample preparation : in a solution (1 in 100).

Details of the method are described in the testing protocol which be downloaded via the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt>. PT sample as well as measure procedure should be handled and operated in the same manner as performing routine work.

11. ASSIGNED VALUE

The assigned value used to calculate z score is based on the consensus value from participants using the robust mean calculated according to robust analysis:Algorithm A in Annex C of ISO 13528:2015-Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons.

The standard uncertainty of the assigned value x_{pt} is estimated as

$$u(x_{pt}) = 1.25 \times \frac{s^*}{\sqrt{p}}$$

Criteria:

If

$$u(x_{pt}) < 0.3 \sigma_{pt}$$

then, the uncertainty of the assigned value is negligible and need not to be included in the interpretation of the results.

12. STANDARD DEVIATION FOR PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Standard deviation for proficiency assessment used to calculate z scores is the robust standard deviation calculated according to robust analysis:Algorithm A in Annex C of ISO 13528:2015-Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons.



13. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Participants will be assessed on the differences between their results and the assigned value. The z score is used for the performance evaluation as

$$z_i = \frac{(x_i - x_{pt})}{\sigma_{pt}}$$

Z_i = z score

x_i = measurement result from participant

x_{pt} = assigned value

σ_{pt} = standard deviation for proficiency assessment

The interpretation of z score is designated as follows.

$|z| \leq 2.0$: acceptable

$2.0 < |z| < 3.0$: warning signal

$|z| \geq 3.0$: unacceptable

When $u(x_{pt}) > 0.3\sigma_{pt}$, then the uncertainty can be taken into account by expanding the denominator of the performance score and calculated as z' score

$$z'_i = \frac{x_i - x_{pt}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{pt}^2 + u^2(x_{pt})}}$$

The interpretation of z' score is as same as z score and using the same critical values of 2.0 and 3.0, depending on the design for the PT scheme.

For warning signal or unacceptable results, it is recommended that participants should investigate root causes and take necessary corrective actions.

14. POTENTIAL MAJOR SOURCES OF ERRORS

1. Variation of temperature
2. Condition of electrode
3. Incorrect calibration of pH meter
4. Instrument settings
5. Solvent used should be carbon dioxide-free purified water
6. Suitability of sample handling



15. REPORT

An interim report is issued to provide each participant with an early indication of performance. In general, the interim report is issued about two months after the deadline for submission of results via the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt>. Participants are requested to check and review for any correction and/or comment. The final report is issued via the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt> after the correction and/or comment of interim report has been completed.

The report includes the following information.

- Introduction: general description of PT scheme
- Name and contact details of proficiency testing provider and scheme coordinator
- Participation: information of participating laboratories
- PT sample: description, sample preparation
- Homogeneity and stability assessment
- Assigned value, including measurement uncertainty and standard deviation of proficiency assessment
- Results: result tables including statistic summary data, z scores and bar chart of z scores
- Discussion of results: conclusion of overall performance and comments on participants' performance
- Potential major sources of errors

16. CONFIDENTIALITY, COLLUSION AND FALSIFICATION OF RESULTS

The identities of participants are protected by means of laboratory codes which are randomly assigned in each PT round. These codes are confidential and are not disclosed to other persons unless agreed by the participant for a regulatory or recognition purpose. Participants can access their personal information in the website <https://www.bdn.go.th/pt> by using username and password which can keep their information confidentially. For security purpose, participants are recommended to change username and password in case of changing the responsible person who can access the information in the website.

This PT scheme is conducted in the belief that participants will perform the analysis and report results with scientific professional. Where any collusion between participants or falsification of results is proven by BDN, the result of that participant for the PT round concerned will be cancelled for performance evaluation.

17. LOST OR DAMAGED PROFICIENCY TESTING SAMPLE

In case of lost or damaged PT sample, participants should immediately inform BDN. In some cases, the damaged PT sample should be returned to BDN. Replacement will be arranged within 1 week if the PT samples are proved to be lost or considered not suitable for analysis. The deadline of submitting result will be extended to appropriate date if necessary.