

SQA-iO⁷ Service Manual

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Table of Contents

SECTION I: Introduction	
Automated Test Results	3
Technology	4
SECTION II: System Specifications and Requirements	
System Components	4
Measurement Compartment	4
USB Port	5
Testing Capillary	5
Maintenance Schedule	5
Testing and Operating Requirements	6
Operating Temperature/Humidity/Altitude	6
SECTION III: Quality Control	
Internal QC	6
Printing the Service Report	7
SECTION IV: Troubleshooting	
Troubleshooting	7
SECTION IX: Appendixes	
Cleaning the SQA-iO	8
Troubleshooting Guide	9
Filling the Testing Capillary with a Normal Volume Sample	11
Filling the Testing Capillary with a Low Volume Sample	13

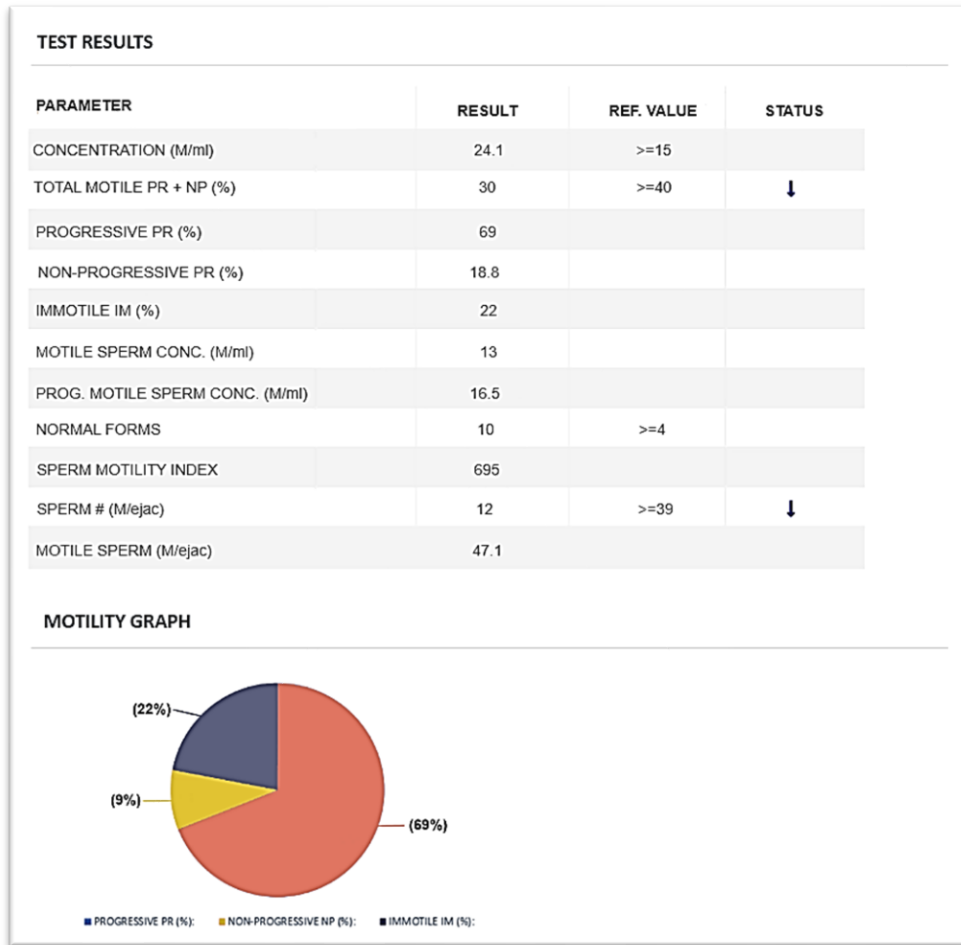
SECTION I: Introduction

The SQA-iO is a high-performance PC-based analytical medical device that tests FRESH semen samples. The device works with a computer application that contains the device, patient, sample, test results and facility information.

After collection and preparation, a ~1 ml semen sample is withdrawn into an SQA capillary disposable delivery system, inserted into the SQA-iO where key parameters are collected, and sample test results are processed utilizing proprietary technology and algorithms. The testing process takes approximately 75 seconds.

The system runs an automatic self-test and auto-calibration upon start up and checks device stability before each sample is run.

**Automated
Test Results
and
Reportable
Range**



SQA-iO Reportable Range					
Sample Type	Conc. (M/ml)	Motility (%)	PMSC (M/ml)	Morph Norm Forms (%)	MSC (M/ml)
Fresh	<2 - 400	0 - 100	0 - 400	2 - 30	<0.2 - 400

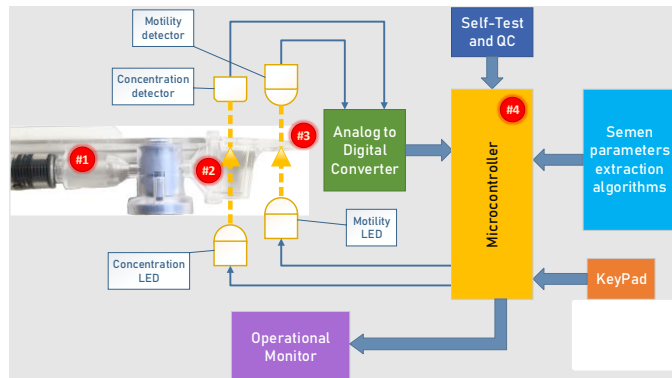
Technology

Motility Channel

Light disturbances caused by moving sperm cells are converted into **analog signals**. Proprietary algorithms interpret the signals and report motility.

Concentration Channel

Based on spectrophotometry analysis of the semen samples and application of proprietary algorithms.



1. The capillary is inserted into the measurement compartment.
2. Sample concentration is evaluated in the "tall" 10 mm chamber of the capillary.
3. Motility is detected in the "thin" 0.3 mm section of the capillary.
4. This information is then digitized and routed to the microprocessor that applies algorithms to extract the required clinical semen parameters.

SQA-iO Device Overview and System Components

SECTION II: System Specifications and Requirements

- Dimensions: 8 X 9.5 X 10.5 cm
- Weight: 0.350 Kg
- Power supply: 5V DC (USB)
- Noise level: 0 [dBA]
- Device power consumption: 1.7 [BTU/hour] = 0.5 [Watts]

Minimum requirements:

- PC: Intel Core i5 M520 2.4GHz or equivalent
- RAM: 4GB
- Monitor Screen: Color, Wide screen – minimum resolution 1024 x 768
- Operating system compatibility: Windows 7 Professional x32 or above
- Communication Ports: one USB port
- Internet Access: 5mb per second

Measurement Compartment

Front Panel: Measurement Compartment (Capillary insertion for testing)



USB Port

- **Sources of radiant energy:** Two LEDs (motility and concentration channels)
- **Detector system:** Two photo detectors (Motility and Optical Density)
- **Analysis Time:** 75 seconds
- **Software:** Resides on flash memory
- **Motility channel input signal:** Analog, up to 5V.
- **Concentration channel input signal:** Modulated (kHz) analog, up to 5V
- **Calibrated for testing human semen only at room temperature**

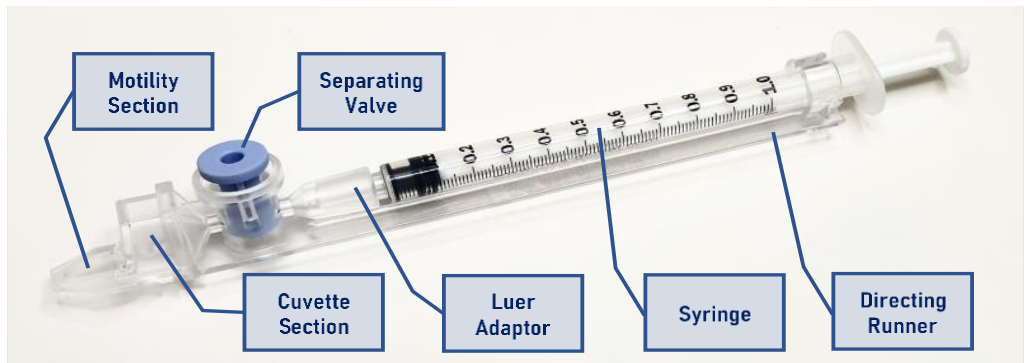
Rear Panel: USB connection port

- **USB PORT:** 1 connector for USB 2.0B male connection cable



Testing Capillary

Testing Capillary: Sample delivery system



- **Normal sample:** Requires approximately 0.5cc of semen
- **Short samples:** Requires approximately 20µl
- **Single-use** design for testing semen in a biologically safe manner
- **Motility parameters** are measured in the 0.3 mm (thin) "capillary" section
- **Concentration** is measured in the 10 mm (tall) "cuvette" section
- **Use only manufacturers' certified testing capillaries for testing**
- **Filling and insterting the testing Capillary:** Refer to the Appendix section

Maintenance Schedule

Maintenance Requirements

- **Measurement compartment cleaning:**
 - **DAILY:** When running samples
 - **AFTER EVERY 10-15** tests and/or for ANY spillage
 - Use only manufacturer's cleaning kit/supplies to prevent damaging the device
 - Refer to the "**Cleaning the Capillary Compartment**" Appendix in this manual for detailed instructions

Testing and Operating Requirements

Manufacturer’s Recommendations

- The SQA-iO is sensitive to vibrations during the testing cycle. Operate away from devices that cause electronic noise or vibrations such as centrifuges.
- Un-plug the device when not in use for an extended period of time.
- Ambient temperature limitations: The SQA-iO is calibrated to conduct tests at room temperature: 20-25°C (68-77°F). This is the recommended range for room temperature maintenance of semen samples prior to testing for up to 1 hour following collection.
- **Sample processing limitations:** The device is calibrated to test semen samples at room temperature. Heating samples in ANY WAY will impact results. Do not heat samples.
- **Semen is considered biologically hazardous material and is subject to individual laboratory protocols for handling such materials. At a minimum, it is recommended to:**
 - Wear laboratory coat, mask and gloves when handling semen
 - Dispose of samples post testing in designated hazardous waste containers
 - Require that only personnel trained to work with biologically hazardous materials test and handle semen samples.

Ambient Condition Restrictions for Operation

Operating Temperature, Humidity and Altitude

- Maximum operational humidity is up to 80% for temperatures of up to 31°C with decreasing linearly to 50% humidity at 38°C.
- Operates in a wide range of ambient temperatures (15-38°C) however the system is calibrated to measure semen samples at room temperature: 20-25°C (68-77°F).
- Intended for indoor use at a maximum altitude of 2000m, mains supply fluctuations ±10%, Overvoltage Category II, Pollution Degree II.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Humidity exceeding the limitations above may impact test results due to condensation on the optical detectors. Assess ambient humidity and temperature prior to device operation.
- Ambient temperatures exceeding the limitation above may impact the accuracy of semen motility test results because of the known effect of temperature on human semen.

Quality Controls Overview

SECTION III: Quality Control

Internal Controls: A series of tests are automatically run when the SQA-iO is turned on and prior to testing. These internal QC tests check the calibration settings and the internal operating system.

PASS/FAIL QC Results

Internal Controls are run @ SQA-iO Start-up: PASS/FAIL results are reported on the SQA-iO home screen along with troubleshooting information

Controls Run at Start-up

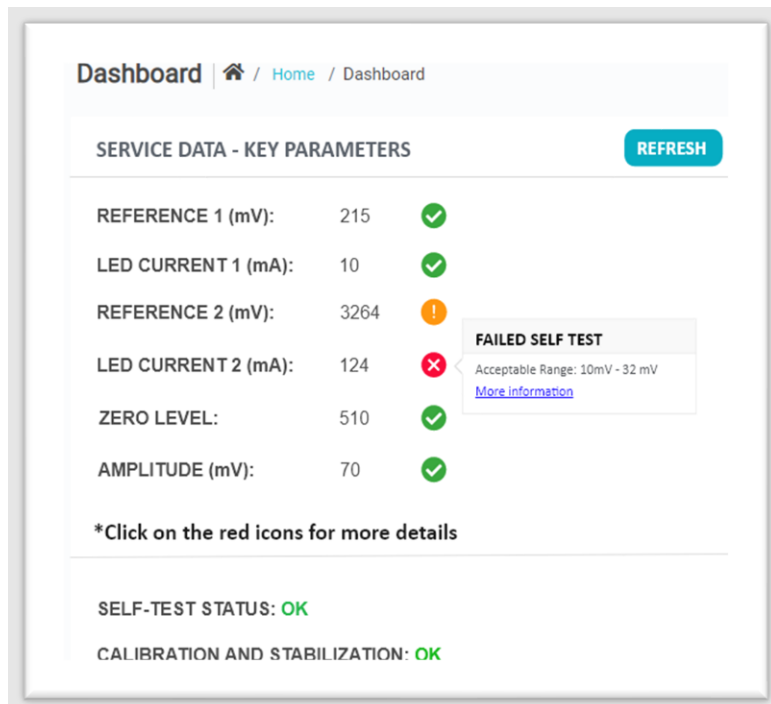
- **Stabilization and autocalibration:** System stability and reference parameters are checked to ensure they are in proper range by analyzing the system sensors. Once stable for 30 seconds the device passes stabilization and autocalibration. A warning message is displayed on the home screen if there is a failure.
- **System noise:** Measures the electronic noise level of the system to insure effective measurement of electronic signals.
- **Self-test:** Electronic signals simulating motility and concentration measurements verify that the calibration settings are consistent with factory specifications.

Controls Run Prior to Sample Testing

- **Autocalibration verification:** Reference parameters of the concentration and motility channels are measured again (without a testing capillary).
- **System noise:** Measures the electronic noise level of the system to insure effective measurement of electronic signals. The system automatically adjusts the noise level threshold to insure accurate readings.
- **Electronic spikes:** Checks for measurement points that are out of range.

Instructions for printing the SQA-iO SERVICE parameters to prepare for technical support:

If a Self-Test failure occurs, the related status icon in the SQA-iO **HOME SCREEN** will turn red. Click on the **RED** icon to view instructions for how to resolve the problem:



Printing the Service Parameter Report

SECTION IV: TROUBLESHOOTING

The SQA-iO troubleshooting guide is focused on app access and function. The SQA-iO device cannot be opened for service so it is important to follow the cleaning and use instructions for optimal and continued success using the device.

Please refer to the appendix section for a TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE.

Support is available through your local distributor online. Please contact them directly for questions concerning the device that are not outlined in this service manual.

Appendix 1: SQA-iO Cleaning Instructions

APPENDIX 1: Cleaning the SQA-iO

When to clean: **WEEKLY**

- Or if SELF-TEST or any other failure occurs
- Or if System becomes contaminated with semen

Cleaning kit components:

Long cleaning brush (provided in the SQA-iO device kit)

Fibrous material cleaning paddles (single use)

Sponge-tipped drying paddles (single use)

Cleaning fluid (single drop dispenser)

CLEANING: STEP 1

- Insert the long brush supplied in your device kit (bristle side down) into the chamber of the SQA-iO in the same way a testing capillary would be inserted (Fig 1 and 2).
- Pull the brush out, applying downward pressure to sweep or 'dust off' the optics (you will feel a 'shelf' in the back/top section of the chamber) – (Fig 2 and 3)

CLEANING: STEP 2

1. Use a **Fibrous material** cleaning paddle (Fig 4) supplied in your TEST KIT
 - Moisten with only ONE drop of cleaning fluid.
 - Shake off excess fluid.
 - Insert into the measurement compartment fibrous material facing **down** and move the cleaning paddle in and out 5 times (Fig 5).
 - Then, insert into the measurement compartment fibrous material facing **up** and move the cleaning paddle in and out 5 times (Fig 5).
2. Dry the testing chamber using a sponge-tipped drying paddle that is supplied in your TEST KIT.
 - Insert it into the testing chamber and leave it for 10 – 15 seconds (Fig 6).
 - Leave the drying paddle in place, DO NOT move it in and out.



Fig.1 Long Cleaning Brush



Fig. 2 Clean the chamber



Fig. 3 "Dust off"



Fig. 4 Fibrous cleaning paddle



Fig. 5 Insert cleaning paddle down and up



Fig. 6 Dry the testing chamber with sponge

APPENDIX 2: TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

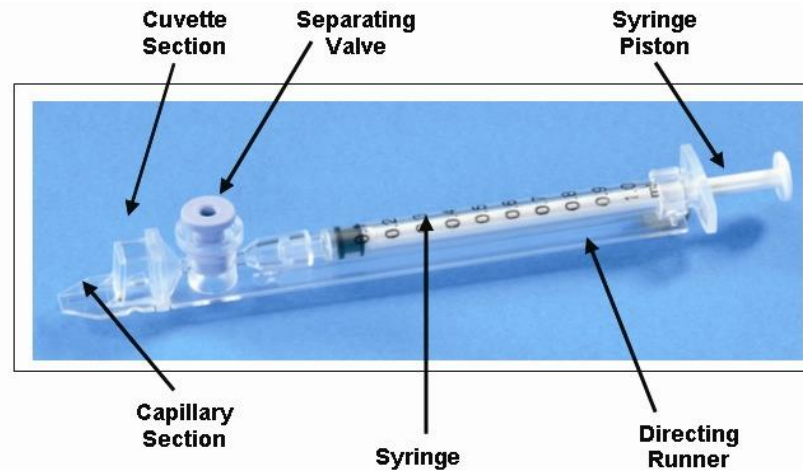
TROUBLESHOOTING OPERATING ERRORS: This table describes what to do when a problem occurs with the SQA-iO app access or when running a test or receiving an error message. It is important to note: If the SQA-iO case is opened by the user, it is no longer under warranty.		
ISSUE	POSSIBLE FAILURE SOURCE	SOLUTION
Computer connectivity (communication failure)	1. The SQA-iO is unable to establish communication with the computer. USB connection error indicated on the app header / pop-up warning.	Remove and reconnect the USB cable – follow the pop-up warning instructions that can be activated by clicking the USB icon found in the app header or click the 'Disconnected' button on the app home screen.
	2. USB connection failure after installation	Display of Step 2 of the installation process where the user is asked to connect the USB cable. If it fails, please report using online support by clicking on the link to the troubleshooting page.
	3. Driver error after login/sign-up	Download and reinstall the driver by going to step 2 of the installation process. If it fails, please report using online support.
Cannot Sign-up	1. Missing required information	Fill in the mandator fields that are missing information. This is indicated by red explanation text when clicking on the 'Register' button.
	2. Did not accept Terms and Conditions	
	3. User already exists	The email entered to "Register" is already in use. Select another email or may require a password reset (see 'Cannot Login' below)
Cannot Login	When clicking on the 'Login' button a warning that user email or password is incorrect/missing	Reset the user password: Request an email with a link to reset the password when receiving message "Forgot email?"
Self-test failure	A failure is indicated by a red warning icon on the HOME page.	Click the red icon indicating a failure. Observe the normal range value. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clean the test chamber using ONLY MES cleaning kit. Remove and reconnect USB cable. Reboot the device. If problem persists, refer to MES customer support: https://www.sqa-io.com/#/contact-us/contact-us
The testing capillary won't go into the SQA-iO	The testing capillary may have been inserted upside down or blue piston is not fully pushed in.	Refer to the Appendix section of this guide for instructions on how to correctly prepare and insert the capillary into the SQA-iO device.
Low Test Credit	A red button is shown when the test credit balance is below 10.	Click the "Tests Remaining" button on the HOME screen to enter a new code for test credits or contact SUPPORT to order a new test kit with a new test credit code. If the credit balance is 0 the "Test Patient" section on the navigation bar is disabled.
Cannot start testing / the START TEST button is disabled	1. No test credits remain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add test credit from a new testing kit using the unique code provided. Order a new test kit by going to SUPPORT
	2. Information missing in mandatory fields	Fill in all fields that are mandatory as indicated by an asterisk: *
	3. The SQA-iO is not connected	Remove and reconnect the USB cable per the pop-up instructions (and based on the red USB icon shown on the header bar).
Connection is lost during a test	Loss of internet connection	The USB connection indicator will turn RED and a pop-up warning will tell the user to reconnect and navigate back to the data entry screen. Start must be pressed again. The patient information is saved and the system will return to the data entry screen. Test credits will not be charged.

Test results are not logical	Test results appear to be out of range.	<p>Go to the Service page and follow the instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the test chamber using ONLY MES cleaning kit. 2. Remove and reconnect USB cable and reboot the device. <p>If problem persists, refer to MES customer support: https://www.sqa-io.com/#/contact-us/contact-us</p>
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TROUBLESHOOTING PARAMETERS OUT OF RANGE: This table describes what to do when a problem occurs with the service data key parameters. It is a detailed description of the Self-test failure that occurs on the HOME page. To solve the issue, navigate to the SERVICE page, follow the instructions below, and rerun the Self-test. If the problem persists, contact customer support.

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	DESCRIPTION/SOLUTION
REFERENCE 1 (REF 1)	150 – 350 mV	<p>✓ Reference 1 passed the self-test</p> <p>✗ Reference 1 failed the self-test</p>
LED CURRENT 1 (LED 1)	5 – 20 mA	<p>✓ LED Current 1 passed the self-test</p> <p>✗ LED Current 1 failed the self-test</p> <p>Suggestion: Clean the device</p>
AMPLITUDE	50 – 100 mV	<p>✓ Amplitude passed the self-test</p> <p>✗ Amplitude failed the self-test</p> <p>Suggestion: Clean the device</p>
ZERO LEVEL	500 – 525	<p>✓ Zero Level passed the self-test</p> <p>✗ Zero Level failed the self-test</p> <p>Suggestion: Clean the SQA-iO. Maintain ambient temperature between 20 – 25°C / 68 – 77°C</p>
REFERENCE 2 (REF 2)	OPTIMAL: 2800 – 3500 PASSED: 2500 – 2800	<p>✓ Reference 2 passed the self-test</p> <p>! Reference 2 passed the self-test but is not in the optimal range</p> <p>✗ Reference 2 failed the self-test</p> <p>Suggestion: Clean the device</p>
LED CURRENT 2 (LED 2)	10 – 32 mA	<p>✓ Led Current 2 passed the self-test</p> <p>✗ Led Current 2 failed the self-test</p>
AUTO-CALIBRATION AND STABILIZATION	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p> <p>Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove testing capillary from the measurement compartment • Remove the SQA-iO from sources of vibrations (centrifuge) • Clean the device 	<p>Auto-Calibration and Stabilization passed (Zero Level parameter is stable)</p> <p>Auto-Calibration and Stabilization failed</p>
SELF-TEST	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p>	<p>Self-test passed (The key system parameters are in range)</p> <p>Self-test failed</p>

APPENDIX 3: Filling the Testing Capillary with a Normal Volume Sample



Sample size, collection and preparation instructions:

1. Sample volume should be **at least .5 ml**. If sample volume is less than .5 ml the sample can be run as a short sample following the instructions in Appendix 2.
2. The sample must be collected without partners, gels or creams and tested within 1 hour of collection for accurate results.
3. Do not heat or refrigerate the sample, maintain a test at room temperature
4. The semen sample must be **completely liquefied and well mixed prior to aspiration:** Gently mix by rotating the sample collection container.

WARNING: Do not shake or use a pipette to mix the sample otherwise air bubbles will form and test results will be inaccurate.



Figure 1

5. **Carefully check that the liquefied, fully mixed specimen is free of air bubbles** (or that there is an adequate amount of sample below the air bubbles) before immersing the capillary into the specimen.

Filling the capillary:

1. **Push the syringe pump fully into the syringe.** Place only thin part of the capillary into the bottom of the sample while angling the sample container at about 45 degrees (Figure 1).
2. Placing two fingers below the syringe pump's head **pull the syringe pump back slowly while keeping the tip of the capillary well below the sample level and below any surface bubbles** (Figure 1). Continue to aspirate the sample until it appears in the Luer adaptor (Figure 2).



Figure 2

3. Check the capillary after filling (Figure 3), **visually confirm that the sample has completely filled** the thin section (without a meniscus) and the cuvette section. A small level of sample should appear in the syringe. **Tap on the syringe to make sure there are no air bubbles** in the sample. If, after tapping, some air bubbles appear below the Luer adaptor, dip the capillary into the semen sample again and aspirate a small quantity of semen to draw the air bubbles into the syringe.
4. **Quickly (to avoid wicking) wipe the outer surface of the capillary** - both top and bottom (Figure 4) with a delicate wipe (Kimwipes, etc.). It is important to remove all semen from the exterior of the capillary in order to keep the SQA-iO clean. Visually confirm that the capillary chambers are still full following the cleaning process. If some of the sample has been depleted (meniscus formed in the thin part of the capillary) fill the capillary part from the cuvette section by slightly pushing in the piston.



Fig 3 Inspect for bubbles



Figure 4 Wipe the tip

5. Slowly and carefully **push-in the blue piston** until it is level with the plastic (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Push in the blue piston

6. The capillary is now ready.
7. **Insert the testing capillary into the measurement compartment with the blue stopper down.** Push it in as far as it will go to ensure that the capillary is properly seated.



APPENDIX 4: Filling the Testing Capillary with a Low Volume Sample

Sample size and preparation:

1. A sample as small as 10 microliters can be tested for motility parameters by filling **ONLY** the thin section of the testing capillary.
2. The sample must be collected without partners, gels or creams and tested within 1 hour of collection for accurate results.
3. Do not heat or refrigerate the sample, maintain and test at room temperature
4. The semen sample must be **completely liquefied and well mixed prior to aspiration**: Gently mix by rotating the sample collection container.

WARNING: Do not shake or use a pipette to mix the sample otherwise air bubbles will form and test results will be inaccurate.

Filling the capillary:

1. **Push the syringe piston in fully.** Place only the thin part of the capillary into the bottom of the sample (Figure 1).
2. **Pull the piston back slowly** without withdrawing the capillary from the sample. **Fill only the (thin) capillary chamber** with 10 microliters of semen (Figure 1). Aspirate the sample until it just appears in the cuvette section while keeping the tip of the capillary well below the sample level and well below the level of any bubbles covering the liquid.
3. Withdraw the capillary tip from the semen sample and visually inspect to ensure that the sample has completely filled the thin section (no meniscus).
4. Quickly (to avoid wicking) **wipe the outer surface of the capillary** - both top and bottom with a delicate wipe (Kimwipes, etc.). It is important to remove all semen from the exterior of the capillary in order to keep the SQA-iO clean.
5. Visually confirm that the thin chamber of the capillary is still full of semen after completing the cleaning process. If some of the sample has been depleted push-in the piston slightly until the first drop appears on the capillary tip and then fill the capillary again from the sample container.



Figure 1

Removing the blue piston:

6. The blue piston must now be removed:
 - Detach the entire syringe from the hub (Figure 2)
 - Use the syringe tip to firmly **push-out the separating valve** from the underside of the capillary (Figure 3).
 - Completely detach the separating valve (Figure 4). The capillary is now ready to be inserted into the SQA-iO



Figure 2: Detach the syringe



Figure 3: Push the piston out

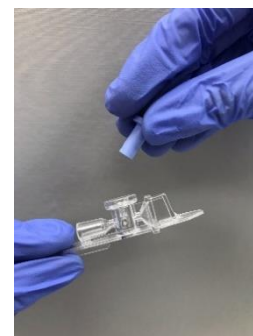


Figure 4: Remove the piston

PLEASE NOTE: Test Low Volume samples as soon as the sample is aspirated into the capillary.