

**NOTE:** For access to the full user manual for this product, please visit [www.heska.com/productmanuals](http://www.heska.com/productmanuals).

## Supplies

1. Remove test cartridges from refrigerator and warm 5 minutes in foil pouch.

**NOTE:** Remove only those needed for ordered tests. Do not touch metallic electrodes. Handle cartridge by outer edges only.

## Sample Handling

**IMPORTANT:** When measuring cortisol in plasma, Dilution Mode must always be used.

See DILUTION TEST section for instructions, or refer to the *Element i Veterinary Chemistry Analyzer User Manual, Section 3.4*.

1. Draw patient sample using a 22 gauge or larger needle.
2. If using a Heska-supplied Green Top (lithium heparin) tube, fill 0.5 ml or 1.5 ml tube with whole blood. Cap the tube and immediately invert to mix. Spin the sample in Heska-supplied centrifuge for 3 minutes.
3. If running plasma or serum only, collect sample and separate plasma or serum as you normally would. For serum sample, allow 20 minutes for blood to clot prior to centrifugation. Transfer plasma or serum to a 0.5ml Heska Red Top tube for analysis.

## Basic Operation

1. Make sure [Ready] is displayed before loading sample and test cartridge.
2. Open sampler cover.
3. Place test cartridge in analyzer. (Figure 1)  
**NOTE:** DO NOT remove or puncture foil barrier from top of test cartridge.
4. Set pipette tip in the tip set hole on the sample table.
5. Ensure proper tube spacer for size of sample tube being run (0.5 ml or 1.5 ml) and place in sample table.
6. Remove cap from sample tube and place in sample table.
7. Close sampler cover.
8. Press **ID**, Input patient ID, press **ENTER**.
9. If species is not pre-selected, press **REF.** until the appropriate species is displayed.
10. Press **START** to begin test.

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT open sampler cover or disposal box during testing or results may be compromised.



Figure 1

## Changing the Tube Setting

1. Tube size will be displayed on the screen.
2. Press ◀ and ▲ at the same time.
3. Press arrow to select preferred tube size (0.5 mL or 1.5 mL).
4. Press **ENTER**.
5. Ensure the corresponding sample tube spacer is inserted in the sample table of the analyzer.

## Dilution Test

**IMPORTANT:** This step is only to be performed when assessing cortisol using a plasma sample OR if a serum cortisol value is outside the reportable range of the analyzer. Dilution is only validated for the cortisol cartridge.

**NOTE:** If a sample that was diluted outside of the analyzer is measured, an incorrect test result will be obtained. Always follow the procedure of this section to perform dilution tests.

1. Make sure [Ready] is displayed.
2. Prepare diluent per image at right. Use only Normal Saline for diluent.

**NOTE:** Use the same size tube for the diluent and the sample.

3. Press ▶ and ▼ at the same time.
4. Make sure [SET TIP&DILUENT then START] is displayed.
5. Open the sample set cover.
6. Set the reagent cartridge in place.
7. Set a tip into the tip set hole on the sample table.
8. Set a tube containing diluent in the tube spacer with the cap removed.
9. Close the sample set cover.
10. Press **START** to start the aspiration of the diluent.
11. Make sure [SET TIP&SAMPLE then START] is displayed. Then, open the sample set cover.
12. Remove the remaining diluent (tube).
13. Set a tube containing SAMPLE in the tube spacer with cap removed.
14. Set a tip into the tip set hole on the sample table.
15. Close the sample set cover.
16. Press **START** to start the measurement.
17. The test result will be displayed with a "D" on the screen indicating dilution was performed. When the tests are completed, a beep will sound.

