CLAIMS

1. A method for collecting a sample and/or analysing a sample, the method comprising:

a. providing a kit, the including: packaging for one or more devices or containers; and one or more devices and/or one or more containers; and wherein an identifier is provided on one or more of the devices and/or containers and/or packaging;

b. using the one or more devices or containers to collect a sample and/or using one or more of the devices and/or containers to analyse a sample;

c. recording the identity of the identifier for one or more of the identifiers provided;

d. linking the identity of the identifier for one or more of those identifiers to one or more of the identities for one or more of the other identifiers.

2. A method according to claim 1 in which the identity of the identifier is recorded and linked for two or more of: the record of the person providing the sample, the sample collection device, the sample preparation container, the cartridge for analysing the sample, a record of the results of the analysis, a record of the processed results or a record arising from the modification stage.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the sample collection stage use a sample collection device and the sample collection device is placed in a container, and one or more of the following are provided:

the identity of the identifier for the sample collection kit packaging is recorded before the packaging is opened;

the identity of the identifier for the sample collection device is recorded before the device is used to collect a sample and/or after;

the identity of the identifier for the container provided in the sample collection kit is recorded before the sample is collected and/or before the sample collection device is placed in the container and/or after.

4. A method according to claim 3 in which the identity of the identifier recorded is use to link the sample collection kit and/or sample collection device and/or container to the sample and/or to the person providing the sample and/or to a record of information given by or taken

from the person providing the sample.

5. The method of any preceding claim, in which the item or items needed for the sample loading stage and/or cartridge loading stage and/or sample analysis stage are provided in a sample analysis kit, one or more of the following being provided for the sample analysis kit:

the sample analysis kit may consist of a cartridge in packaging;

the sample analysis kit packaging and/or one or more items therein are provided with an identifier and the identity of the identifier is recorded during the sample preparation and/or sample loading and/or cartridge loading and/or analysis stage;

the identity of the identifier for the sample analysis kit is recorded before the packaging is opened;

the identity of the identifier for the cartridge is recorded before the cartridge is loaded with the sample and/or before the cartridge is loaded into the instrument and/or after.

6. The method of claim 5 in which the identity of the identifier recorded is used to link the sample analysis kit and/or cartridge and/or container for reagents or materials to one or more of: the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

7. The method of any preceding claim, in which the results may contain a raw results data file generated by the instrument and the results include an identity for an identifier for the results.

8. The method of claim 7, in which the identity of the identifier included in the results is used to link the results to one or more of: the sample analysis kit, cartridge, container for reagents or materials, the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

9. The method of any preceding claim, in which in a results processing stage the results file is received and subjected to one or more processing steps to generate one or more processed results.

10. A method according to claim 9, in which the processed results include an identifier and the identifier is used to link the processed results to one or more of: the processing stage, potentially including steps and/or criteria used therein, the identity of the identifier included in the results, the sample analysis kit, cartridge, container for reagents or materials, the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

11. A kit, the kit being for use in collecting a sample and/or being for use in analysing a sample, the kit including:

packaging for one or more devices or containers; and

one or more devices and/or one or more containers; and wherein an identifier is provided on one or more of the devices and/or containers and/or packaging.

12. A kit according to claim 11 in which the kit includes: packaging for one or more items, the one or more items including a loadable element in which at least a part of the analysis of the sample is performed.

CLAIMS

1. A method for collecting a sample, the method comprising:

a. providing a kit, the including:

i. packaging for one or more devices and containers; and

ii. one or more devices and one or more containers; and

wherein an identifier is provided on one or more of the devices and on one or more of the containers and on the packaging;

b. using the one or more devices to collect a sample;

c. using one or more of the containers to store the sample;

d. recording the identity of the identifier provided on one or more of the devices and on one or more of the containers and on the packaging;

e. linking the identity of the identifier provided on one or more of the devices and on one or more of the containers and on the packaging.

2. A method according to claim 1 in which the identity of the identifier is recorded and linked for two or more of: the record of the person providing the sample, the sample collection device, the sample preparation container, the cartridge for analysing the sample, a record of the results of the analysis, a record of the processed results or a record arising from the modification stage.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the sample collection stage uses a sample collection device and the sample collection device is placed in a container, and one or more of the following are provided:

the identity of the identifier for the sample collection kit packaging is recorded before the packaging is opened;

the identity of the identifier for the sample collection device is recorded before the device is used to collect a sample and/or after;

the identity of the identifier for the container provided in the sample collection kit is recorded before the sample is collected and/or before the sample collection device is placed in the container and/or after.

4. A method according to claim 3 in which the identity of the identifier recorded is use to link the sample collection kit and/or sample collection device and/or container to the sample

and/or to the person providing the sample and/or to a record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

5. The method of any preceding claim, in which the method further provides a method of analysing the sample, the item or items needed for the sample loading stage and/or cartridge loading stage and/or sample analysis stage are provided in a sample analysis kit, one or more of the following being provided for the sample analysis kit:

the sample analysis kit may consist of a cartridge in packaging;

the sample analysis kit packaging and/or one or more items therein are provided with an identifier and the identity of the identifier is recorded during the sample preparation and/or sample loading and/or cartridge loading and/or analysis stage;

the identity of the identifier for the sample analysis kit is recorded before the packaging is opened;

the identity of the identifier for the cartridge is recorded before the cartridge is loaded with the sample and/or before the cartridge is loaded into the instrument and/or after.

6. The method of claim 5 in which the identity of the identifier recorded is used to link the sample analysis kit and/or cartridge and/or container for reagents or materials to one or more of: the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

7. The method of any preceding claim, in which the results may contain a raw results data file generated by the instrument and the results include an identity for an identifier for the results.

8. The method of claim 7, in which the identity of the identifier included in the results is used to link the results to one or more of: the sample analysis kit, cartridge, container for reagents or materials, the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

9. The method of any preceding claim, in which in a results processing stage the results file

is received and subjected to one or more processing steps to generate one or more processed results.

10. A method according to claim 9, in which the processed results include an identifier and the identifier is used to link the processed results to one or more of: the processing stage, potentially including steps and/or criteria used therein, the identity of the identifier included in the results, the sample analysis kit, cartridge, container for reagents or materials, the sample collection kit, sample collection device, one or more containers in the sample collection kit, sample, person providing the sample or record of information given by or taken from the person providing the sample.

11. A kit, the kit being for use in collecting a sample, the kit including:

packaging for one or more devices and containers; and

one or more devices for collecting the sample; and

one or more containers for storing the sample; and

wherein an identifier is provided on one or more of the devices and on one or more of the containers and on the packaging and wherein the identity of the identifier provided on one or more of the devices and on one or more of the containers and on the packaging is linked together.

12. A kit according to claim 11 in which the kit includes: packaging for one or more items, the one or more items including a loadable element in which at least a part of the analysis of the sample is performed.