UK NEQAS

Blood Coagulation

2020/21

UK NEQAS FOR BLOOD COAGULATION

General Information for the

Point of Care Testing Programme for ACT+ and ACT-LR measurement on the Hemochron cartridge system

UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation
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EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (EQA)

- EQA is provided by UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation (BC) for ACT testing.
- UK NEQAS BC is organisation within the NHS and independent from point of care testing (POCT) device manufacturers.
- EQA samples are tested by each centre registered in the programme and results returned to UK NEQAS BC
- Following analysis a target range is set and each centres results are scored
- In this way, your result can be compared with all other centres performing the same test on the same sample.
- This is a retrospective form of quality control; target results are not available until after the testing is performed.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- UK NEQAS BC distributes 3 surveys (testing sets) per year
- Each centre receives (normally by post; courier services outside the UK by arrangement) a package of the EQA material with full instructions
- 2 lyophilised whole blood samples (obtained from a third party) are provided. Samples will have passed homogeneity and stability testing prior to analysis
- The tests are simple to perform but require approximately 10 minutes dedicated time to complete
- Participants are allowed 17 days to complete the tests and return results to UK NEQAS BC
- Results can be returned through our secure website using a password issued following registration and enrolment
- At the end of a survey once a survey has closed and analysis is complete participants receive individual reports where the median (target) value determined from the results is shown
- A target range of 20% around the median is calculated median -20% to median +20%
- Where ACT results on the EQA survey samples are inside the 20% limits from the median, results are considered "w*ithin consensus*"
- If results are outside these limits, they will be considered to be "*outwith consensus*"
- Z score is added to aid performance interpretation based on the distance of the result from the median and also the precision of the test
- Participants' results and performance details are kept in confidence between UK NEQAS BC and the named individuals identified by the participant number
- If your results are outwith consensus in 3 consecutive surveys (and/or you fail to return results; see below) you will receive a letter from the Scheme Director bringing this to your attention and offering assistance
- Reports will be produced within two weeks of the closing date
- Results received after the closing date will not be included in the analysis and the centres concerned will be considered to be "Non –return: no reason given"

Please note the following requirements of laboratory participation in EQA under ISO15189: *"The laboratory shall not communicate with other participants in the interlaboratory comparison programme about sample data until after the submission date", and " The laboratory shall not refer interlaboratory comparison samples for*

confirmatory examinations before submission of the data, even if this would be routinely done with patient samples". Where evidence of collusion is found, participant performance will be scored as a fail for that survey.

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS:

The number of participants registered in the POCT ACT + programme at 1st April 2020 is 197.
The ACT LR programme was formally launched as of 1st April 2017 and there are currently 94, with a total 291participants registered in ACT programme.

Participation by region; UK: **155** Non-UK: **136**

SURVEY DISTRIBUTIONS

Surveys are distributed to participants three times per year, approximately every four months. A schedule of the planned surveys can be downloaded from our website www.uknegasbc.org or by request via one of the following methods:

Tel: 0114 267 3300
E-mail: neqas@coageqa.org.uk

REGISTRATION – new participants

- Registration with the programme is made by completion of the registration form, available by contacting UK NEQAS BC by phone: +44 (0)114 267 3300, Fax: +44 (0)114 267 3309 or email: neqas@coageqa.org.uk.
- **Payment is not required with the registration form, as an invoice will be raised when the registration has been processed**.
- Following registration, you will receive a letter of confirmation, stating your Participation number. **This is unique to your centre and should be quoted whenever you need to contact us. You will also receive a unique password allowing access to secure data entry and report pages on the website.**
- Participant details are held in strict confidence and are not shared with any third party. Use of the participant number will assist in maintaining confidentiality in survey correspondence.

If you have more than one device

- It is recommended that each device is registered in an EQA programme to individually test and check that reliable results are produced.
- Each device may be cross-referenced with a registration number in the POCT programme enabling a cumulative record to be maintained in the programme.

RE-REGISTRATION – existing participants

In January each year, UK NEQAS BC will send out a re registration form to the registered person from each centre. This document contains the details we currently hold in our database for your centre and we ask that you check to ensure that these details are correct and to provide us with updated information if necessary. The form also states that a purchase order is required if you wish

to continue with your registration for the following financial year. Payment is not required to be returned at this point as an invoice will subsequently be raised.

If you wish to share your results with another centre/person

- Participation in the programme is confidential to your centre and results will not be shared, except in the case of long term issues with performance (see our privacy notice available online at *www.neqascoag.org*
- Should you wish to share your data with another centre, PCT, or a local laboratory, you can share your participant number and password and this will allow them to view/print reports.

Non-return of survey results

- Registration within the programme carries an obligation to return results.
- Failure to do so will lead to an outwith consensus classification.
- Centres not returning results in 3 consecutive surveys will receive a letter from the Scheme Director indicating performance "persistently outwith consensus".
- Survey dates are also displayed on the website under the menu heading 'Forthcoming Surveys' and sub-heading 'Distribution dates'.

Please note samples for the programmes are prepared by a third party, but no other activities are subcontracted by UK NEQAS BC for these programmes.

UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation website

www.uknegasbc.org

On the website you can find information on our programmes, survey distribution dates, and downloadable files for information and registration documents together with information about educational meetings. There are also photo instructions that show you how to test survey samples.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

UK NEQAS BC also offers EQA for the following Point of Care programmes:

- POCT INR
- POCT D Dimer
- POCT Rotem / TEG

For further information on any of our programmes, and details of annual fees, please contact us as follows:
Tel: +44 (0)114 267 3300
UK E-mail: neqas@coagega.org.uk
Countries outside the UK Email: equals@sth.nhs.uk

COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

We aim to provide a high quality service to participants, and to ensure participants are satisfied with all aspect of the proficiency testing programmes we run. Any complaint about UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation will be treated as serious, and will be dealt with as soon as possible by the director or manager.

In the first instance, complaints should be addressed to the Scheme Manager - contact details can be found under Personnel. If the outcome is not to the satisfaction of the participant, referral may be made in the first instance to the Chair of the Steering Committee.

Participants can also appeal against their performance assessment if they feel their results have been scored inappropriately. All appeals will be considered, and participants will be contacted with the outcome of these appeals

Appendix

Example of the calculations for the ACT+ median.

•If the results returned by all participants for one sample were as follows:

460, 408, 450, 439, 446, 435, 446, 435, 454, 436, 437, 424, 325, 437, 431

•The Median value ACT = 437

•20% deviation (either side of437) is 350-524. This is the target range.

•ACT = 450 within consensus (deviation from median = 3.0%)

•ACT = 325 outwith consensus (deviation from median = -25.6%)

If your centres results are lower than the median the percentage deviation will be negative whereas if your result is higher than the median the percentage deviation will be positive. The further away your result is from the median value, the higher the percentage deviation will be.

1. What information is shown in the report?

After analysis, each centre will receive a report showing their results and comparisons with the median (target) values obtained. UK NEQAS BC will indicate whether your results are within limits and also show previous survey performance in the form of a graph enabling each centre to check ongoing performance in the programme.

It is important to store these documents, but should these be misplaced, copies of the report may be reprinted from each centre's password secure page accessed through the UK NEQAS BC website.