

# UK NEQAS

## Blood Coagulation

**2019/20**

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### **UK NEQAS FOR BLOOD COAGULATION**

#### **General Information for the**

#### **D-dimer Point of Care Testing EQA**

#### **Programme**

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**UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation**  
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**Web site: [www.ukneqasbc.org](http://www.ukneqasbc.org)**

## EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (EQA)

- EQA is provided by UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation (BC) for D Dimer 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.

## WHO CAN TAKE PART?

- Participation in the programme is available to all centres performing point of care D-Dimer testing, both within and outside the UK.
- We are able to offer a D-dimer POC EQA programme for Cobas h232 (Roche) and Triage (Alere). The Cobas h232 and the Triage are considered to be quantitative methods as they both give a numerical result.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- UK NEQAS BC distributes 4 surveys (testing sets) year.
- Each centre receives (normally by post; courier services outside the UK by arrangement) a package of the EQA material with full instructions.
- The tests are simple to perform but require approximately 10 minutes dedicated time to complete.
- One lyophilised human plasma sample (produced by a subcontractor of UK NEQAS BC) is provided together with a pre measured volume of diluent and a disposable plastic pipette. Samples have passed homogeneity and stability testing prior to analysis.
- 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 or by returning the result sheet.
- Participants performing quantitative tests will be asked to return their numerical result.
- Participants will also be provided with clinical information including a Wells (pretest clinical probability) score. Participants will be asked to make an interpretation based on their D-Dimer result and the Wells score. The options for the interpretation are either “no further investigations required” or Further investigation required”.
- A median (target) value determined from the results returned.
- The 80% of results closest to the median are termed “within consensus”

- The 20% of results furthest from the target value are termed “outwith consensus”.
  - Participants’ results and performance details are kept in confidence between UK NEQAS BC and the named individuals identified by the participant.
  - 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”.
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- For the interpretative aspect to the programme an 80% majority will be needed to consider the survey for scoring. The majority view will then be considered to be the truth (providing an 80% majority is obtained).
  - Any centre giving this interpretation will be “within consensus” and any centre giving a different interpretation will be “outwith consensus”.
  - If your centre does not provide clinical interpretations (for example if this device is sited within the laboratory and no clinical staff are available to interpret the result) you can chose not to take part in the interpretation aspect but if you provide clinical interpretations for patient sample then we feel that you should take part and opt into this aspect of the EQA programme in order to assess whether your interpretation are similar to other users.
  - If either your results or your interpretations are outwith consensus in 3 consecutive scored 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.

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 total number of participants currently registered in the POCT D Dimer programme is: 106**

67 Cobas H232 users  
39 Triage users

Participation by region; UK: **104**  
Non-UK: **2**

### ***SURVEY DISTRIBUTIONS***

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

Tel: 0114 267 3300

Fax: 0114 267 3309

E-mail: [neqas@coageqa.org.uk](mailto:neqas@coageqa.org.uk)

Reports for each survey will indicate the date of the next survey.

### ***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](mailto:neqas@coageqa.org.uk) .
- **Payment is not required with the registration form, as an invoice will be raised for subsequent payment.**
- 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 contact the registered person from each centre and supply a renewal notice. This document is to be kept for your records and states that unless you make contact we will continue to provide this service for the following financial year. Payment is not required 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 instances of unresolved long term performance issues (please see our privacy policy, available online at [www.neqascoag.org](http://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'.
- UK NEQAS BC acknowledges that staffing problems in a centre may impact on the testing of survey samples, but dates for subsequent surveys are stated on the preceding survey report, allowing forward planning.
- Survey dates are also displayed on the website under the menu heading 'Forthcoming Surveys' and sub-heading 'Distribution dates'.

### ***UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation website***

[www.uknegasbc.org](http://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 programmes:

- POCT INR
- POCT ACT +
- POCT ACT LR
- 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@coageqa.org.uk](mailto:neqas@coageqa.org.uk)

Countries outside the UK E.mail: [equals@sth.nhs.uk](mailto: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