UK NEQAS
Blood Coagulation

2018/19

U.K. National External Quality Assessment Scheme for Blood Coagulation

PARTICIPANTS' MANUAL & GENERAL INFORMATION for Users of TEG

UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation
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EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (EQA)

- EQA is provided by UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation (BC) for INR testing.
- UK NEQAS BC is an organisation within the National Health Service (NHS) and is 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.
- The tests will require approximately 40 minutes dedicated time to complete.
- Participants are allowed 21 days to complete the tests and return results to UK NEQAS BC.
- Results can be returned by post or FAX on the provided result sheet.
- A median (target) value is determined from the results returned.
- A target range around the median is calculated using the deviation from the median of the results given.
- Results that are further than -33% or +50% deviation from the median are considered outwith consensus. This has been established to take into account the skewering of data for these tests. The statistical analysis has been approved by the UK NEAS BC Steering Committee.
- 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 three 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".

Tests covered in this programme:

Samples are provided for the following parameters:-

R
Angle
K
MA at 30 minutes CT

We have in place a Complaints and Appeals Policy, so if you have any concerns regarding the performance assessment of your results or clinical interpretations of the EQA samples, please contact us on 0114 2673300.

The total number of participants currently registered in the TEG EQA programme is: 58

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.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

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.*

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 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 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.

UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation website

www.ukneqasbc.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 D Dimer
- POCT ACT +
- POCT ACT LR
- POCT Rotem

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
Countries outside the UK E.mail: 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

Selected Publications

Dianne P Kitchen, Steve Kitchen, Ian Jennings, Tim Woods, Isobel Walker. Quality assurance and quality control of thrombelastography and rotational thromboelastometry: The UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation Experience. Sem Thromb Haem 2010; 36(7) 757-63.

David J Perry, David A Fitzmaurice, Steve Kitchen, Ian J Mackie, Sue Mallett. Point of Care Testing in Haemostasis. B. J. Haem. 2010; 150(5) 501-14.

Kitchen DP, Kitchen S, Jennings I, Woods TAL, Walker ID. Quality control in Point of Care Haemostasis testing. Sem Thromb Haemostasis 2008; 34:647-653.

Jennings I, Woods TAL, Kitchen S, Walker ID. Platelet function testing: practice among UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme for Blood Coagulation participants, J Clin Pathol 2008; 61:950-954.

Kitchen S. Problems in Laboratory Monitoring of Heparin Dosage. British Journal of Haematology, 2000; 111: 397-406.

Data are regularly presented at national and international scientific meetings, including British Society for Haematology, British Society for Haemostasis and Thrombosis, ISTH Scientific Sub-Committee meetings, World Federation of Haemophilia Congress.