United Kingdom
National External Quality Assessment Service
What is UK NEQAS?

Since 1969 the members of the UK National External Quality Assessment Service (UK NEQAS) consortium have provided External Quality Assessment (EQA) to laboratories within the UK and overseas. The findings from UK NEQAS programmes ensure that clinical laboratory tests on patients are robust, accurate, precise and therefore clinically of value, regardless of the location they are performed; contribute towards the production of international and national guidelines and underpin the generation of local clinical laboratory results for use in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients throughout their treatment journeys. Participation in EQA from accredited organisations such as UK NEQAS is also a requirement for laboratories seeking accreditation to ISO standards.

The range of EQA services offered by the UK NEQAS consortium has grown significantly as clinical laboratory science has evolved. When UK NEQAS was initiated 50 years ago there were only 2 centres providing such a service (Haematology and Clinical Chemistry). Now there are over 20 centres, covering areas of expertise such as reproductive science, cellular pathology, clinical chemistry, genetics, haematology, immunology and microbiology. The EQA programmes operated by UK NEQAS are a mixture of qualitative, quantitative and interpretative programmes but all are operated on a not-for-profit basis and are designed to educate participants rather than be punitive.

Consequently, we believe that we have an obligation not just to our participants but to patients, to ensure that our services are of the highest quality and are fit for purpose. Therefore, all members of the UK NEQAS consortium are committed to:

- provide EQA services that are:
  - Appropriate to clinical practice
  - Responsive to laboratory needs
  - ISO 17043 accredited
- support education of clinical laboratory scientists and related staff
- provide laboratories with information on the relative performance of different methods
- assist laboratories to achieve good EQA performance
- support laboratories in attaining ISO 15189 accreditation
- present findings of EQA programmes at national and international conferences
- publish findings from EQA programmes in international peer reviewed journals
- collaborate with international bodies and groups

We are proud of the EQA programmes we operate and of how our organisation has grown since its inception 50 years ago. We are excited about continuing to work closely with laboratories over the next 50 years to develop the next generation of innovative and responsive EQA programmes that will be needed as medicine and clinical laboratory science advance.

Thank you for your support of UK NEQAS and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Liam Whitby, President

For accreditation status please refer to www.ukas.com
### Cellular Pathology

**Tel:** +44 (0) 191 445 2719  
**Email:** cpt@ukneqas.org.uk  
**Legal entity:** LabXCell LTD  
**Services available:**  
- General Cellular Pathology (Routine Histopathology)  
- Bone Marrow Trephine Biopsy  
- Companion Schemes (Frozen Sections and Mega Blocks)  
- Diagnostic Non Gynaecological Cytology  
- Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF)*  
- Interpretative Non Gynaecological Cytology*  
- Mohs’ Procedure  
- Muscle Histochemistry  
- Neuropathology  
- Renal Biopsy Pathology  
- Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)

**Head & Neck Pathology**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 121 371 5723  
**Email:** neckpath@ukneqas.org.uk  
**Services available:**  
- Immunocytochemistry  
- Immunostaining  
- In-Situ Hybridisation

**Immunocytochemistry & In-Situ Hybridisation**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 207 415 7065  
**Email:** info@ukneqasiccish.org  
**Legal entity:** External Quality Assessment Services for Cancer Diagnostics CIC  
**Services available:**  
- Immunocytochemistry Modules  
- General Pathology  
- Breast Pathology - Hormonal Receptors  
- Breast Pathology - HER2 IHC  
- Lymphoid Pathology  
- Neuropathology  
- Cytopathology  
- Alimentary Tract Pathology (GIST)  
- Mismatch Repair (MMR) Proteins  
- Gastric HER2 IHC  
- NSCLC ALK IHC  
- NSCLC PD-L1-IHC*  
- In-Situ Hybridisation Modules:  
  - Breast (HER2 IHC - Interpretive)  
  - Breast (HER2 IHC - Technical)  
  - NSCLC/RCC ISH*

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**Clinical Chemistry**

**Birmingham Quality (contd)**

- Holotranscobalamin  
- Immunosuppressants  
- Interpretative Comments in Clinical Chemistry  
- Intrinsic Factor Antibodies  
- Lipid Investigations  
- Monthly Clinical Chemistry #  
- Newborn Screening  
- Paediatric Biliubin  
- PREPQ - Pre and Post Analytical Quality Monitoring: a pan-UK NEQAS Scheme  
- Quantitative Amino Acids  
- Serum Indices (HIL)  
- Specific Proteins  
- Steroid Hormones  
- Sweat Testing  
- Thyroglobulin  
- Thryiad Hormonos  
- Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring  
- Urinary Catecholamines & Metabolites  
- Urine Chemistries  
- Urine Dipsticks  
- Vitamin Assays  
- Vitamin D

**Cardiac Markers**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 141 354 9039  
**Email:** cardiac@ukneqas.org.uk  
**Legal entity:** NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde  
**Services available:**  
- Laboratory and Point of Care  
  - BNP  
  - Cardiac Troponin I (including high sensitivity methods)  
  - Cardiac Troponin T  
  - CKMB  
  - Myoglobin  
  - NT-proBNP

**Edinburgh Peptide Hormones**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 131 242 6885  
**Email:** ukneqas@ed.ac.uk  
**Legal entity:** NHS Lothian  
**Services available:**  
- Maternal Serum Screening Schemes  
  - 1st Trimester (Down’s syndrome and Trisomies T13 and T18)

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*Pilot Schemes*  
For accreditation status please refer to www.ukas.com  
*Non-UK only*  
For accreditation status please refer to www.ukas.com
### Haematology

#### Blood Coagulation

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<td>Assays (Level 1)</td>
<td>Tel +44 (0) 114 267 3300</td>
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<td>PoC Screening Test (Assays)</td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:coag@ukneqas.org.uk">coag@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen (Clotting method)</td>
<td>Legal entity: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</td>
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</table>

#### Screening Tests (Level 1)

- Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT)
- D-Dimer Assay
- Fibrinogen (Clotting method)
- Heparin Assay (HA)
- Heparin Dosage Assessment (HDA)
- Lupus Anticoagulant
- Prothrombin Time (PT)/INR (Quick/capillary methods)
- Prothrombin Time for diagnosis
- Thrombin Time (TT)

#### Leucocyte Immunophenotyping (contd)

- Post-Stem Cell Transplant Chimerism Monitoring
- Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Gene Panels
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Gene Panels
- Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome Gene Panels

### Haematology

#### Blood Transfusion Laboratory Practice (BTLP)

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<td>Services Available</td>
<td>Tel +44 (0) 1923 217 933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:btlp@ukneqas.org.uk">btlp@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Legal entity: West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust</td>
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#### Transfusion Services (Supplementary to EQA)

- Antenatal Antibody Titration*
- ABO Titration
- Directed Antibody Screening
- Blood Grouping (ABO/D)
- Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Immunophenotyping
- Identification of Red Cell Antibodies
- Immunoglobulin G Antibodies
- Immunoglobulin M Antibodies
- Immunoglobulin A Antibodies
- Red Cell Antibody Screening
- Red Cell Enzyme Schemes
- Haemoglobinopathy Schemes
- Haemoglobinopathy Assessment
- Flow Cytometry Programmes
- Minimal Residual Disease for Plasma Cell Myeloma
- Minimal Residual Disease for CLL by Flow Cytometry
- Minimal Residual Disease for AML by Flow Cytometry
- Minimal Residual Disease for ALL by Flow Cytometry
- Low Level Leucocyte Enumeration
- BCR-ABL1 Kinase Domain Mutation Status
- BCR-ABL1 Major Quantification
- BCR-ABL1 Minor Quantification (Not accredited)
- BCR-ABL1 and AML Translocation Identification
- Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia Gene Panels
- FLT3 Mutation Status
- JAK2 p.T617A/Pre (V617F) Mutation Status
- KIT p.D816Val (D816V) Mutation Status
- NRAS Mutation Status
- NPM1 Mutation Status
- Post-Stem Cell Transplant Chimerism Monitoring
- Vitamins K1 at endogenous concentrations in human serum
- Vitamins K1, 2, 2,6-epoxide at endogenous concentrations in human serum
- Vitamin K1, 2, 3, 4-epoxide at endogenous concentrations in human serum

### Haematology

#### Haematology (contd)

- Services Available:
  - BCR-ABL1 Kinase Domain Mutation Status
  - BCR-ABL1 Major Quantification
  - BCR-ABL1 Minor Quantification (Not accredited)
  - BCR-ABL1 and AML Translocation Identification
  - Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia Gene Panels
  - FLT3 Mutation Status
  - JAK2 p.T617A/Pre (V617F) Mutation Status
  - KIT p.D816Val (D816V) Mutation Status
  - NRAS Mutation Status
  - NPM1 Mutation Status
  - Post-Stem Cell Transplant Chimerism Monitoring
  - Vitamins K1 at endogenous concentrations in human serum
  - Vitamins K1, 2, 2,6-epoxide at endogenous concentrations in human serum
  - Vitamin K1, 2, 3, 4-epoxide at endogenous concentrations in human serum

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*Pilot Schemes

For accreditation status please refer to www.ukas.com
**Immunology**

**Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics**

Tel +44 (0) 1443 622 185  
Email handi@ukneqas.org.uk  
Legal entity: Velindre University NHS Trust  
Services available:  
Crossmatching by Flow Cytometry  
Cytotoxic Crossmatching  
HLA Typing at 1st Field Resolution  
HLA Typing to 2nd or 3rd Field Resolution  
Educational (EJD) – Interpretive clinical scenarios  
Educational (ED) - HLA Typing  
Educational Crossmatch (EDXM) – Combined Crossmatch/HLA Type/Antibody Analysis  
HFE Typing  
HLA Antibody Detection  
HLA Antibody Specificity Analysis  
HLA-B27 Testing  
HLA-B*57:01 Typing for Drug Hypersensitivity  
HLA Typing for Coeliac and other HLA Associated Diseases  
HLA Phenotyping  
HPA Genotyping  
Interpretative: HFE Genotype and Hereditary and Haemochromatosis  
Interpretative HLA Genotype  
KIR Genotyping  
HPA Antibody Detection/Specification  

**Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy**

Tel +44 (0) 114 271 5715  
Email immunology@ukneqas.org.uk  
Legal entity: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Services available:  
Autoimmunity  
Acetylcholine Receptor Antibodies  
Anaemia Related Antibodies  
ANCA/GBM Antibodies  
Bullous Dermatosis Antibodies  
Citrilullated Proteins  
Coeliac Disease Antibodies  
Diabetic Markers  
Ganglioside Antibody  
Interferon Gamma Release Assays  
Liver Antibodies  
Myositis Associated Antibodies*  
Nuclear Antibodies DNA/ANA  

**Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy (contd)**

Nuclear Antibodies DNA/ANA/ENA  
Pancreatic Antibodies  
Phospholipase A2 Receptor Antibodies (PLA2R)*  
Phospholipid Antibodies  
Rheumatoid Factor  
Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies  
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone Receptor Ab (TRAb)  

**Allergy and Immunodeficiency**

Allergen Component Testing*  
Allergen Specific IgE  
Avian Antibodies  
Fungal Antibodies  
H. Influenzae Antibodies  
IgG Subclasses  
Pneumococcal Antibodies  
Salmonella ser. Typh (S. Typh) Antibodies*  
Tetanus Antibodies  
Total Serum IgG  
Trypsine  

**Immunochemistry**

Alpha 1 Antitrypsin and Phenotype Identification  
B2 Microglobulin  
CT Inhibitor & Functional Complement  
C-Reactive Protein  
CRP Ultra sensitive Assays  
CSF B2 Transferin  
CSF B2 Trace Protein  
CSF Haem Pigments  
CSF IgG Oligodonal Bonds  
CSF Proteins and Biochemistry  

**Oncology**

Breast markers – CA153  
Chromogarmin A  
Gut markers – CA199*  
Lung markers – NSE  
Mammalian Protein Identification  
Ovarian markers – CA125  
PSA free  
PSA total  

**Point of Care Testing**

C-Reactive Protein  

**Digital EGA**

Cryptoglobulins (image based)  
Interpretative EGA (EGA)  

**Medical Microbiology**

**Microbiology**

Tel +44 (0) 208 905 9890  
Email organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk  
Legal entity: Public Health England  
Services available:  
Bacteriology Schemes  
AAF Microscopy  
Antimicrobial Susceptibility  
Bacterial Identification  
Clastidiun Difficile  
Community Medicine  
Faecal Pathogens  
General Bacteriology incl. Antimicrobial Susceptibility  
General Bacteriology Identification  
Genital Pathogens  
MRS A Screening  
Mycobacteria Culture  
Urinary Antigens  

**Parasitology**

Tel +44 (0) 203 908 1371  
Email parasite@ukneqas.org.uk  
Legal entity: Public Health England  
Services available:  
Malaria Rapid  
Molecular Detection of Malaria  
Parasite Serology  
Toxoplasma IgG, IgM and Avidity Serology  
Faecal Molecular*  
Toxoplasma Molecular*  

**Other Services (Supplementary to EQA)**

Blood and Faecal Parasitology Teaching Courses  

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*Pilot Schemes*
### Other Specialities

#### Genomics

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<td><a href="mailto:info@genoa.org">info@genoa.org</a></td>
<td>Retinal Disorders</td>
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<td>Edinburgh Office: +44 (0)131 242 6898</td>
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#### Reproductive Science

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<tr>
<th>Tel</th>
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<tr>
<td>+44 (0) 161 276 6437</td>
<td><a href="mailto:repscience@ukneqas.org.uk">repscience@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
<td><strong>Prenatal Testing</strong></td>
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<td>Non-invasive Prenatal testing for common aneuploidies* (provided in collaboration with EMQN)</td>
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<td>Non-invasive Prenatal testing for common microdeletions*</td>
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<td>Non-invasive Prenatal testing for sex determination* (provided in collaboration with EMQN)</td>
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<td>Prenatal constitutional CNV detection (previously Prenatal microarray)</td>
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<td>Products of Conception/Fetal tissue (Molecular methods)</td>
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#### Andrology

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<td>+44 (0) 161 276 6437</td>
<td><a href="mailto:repscience@ukneqas.org.uk">repscience@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Sperm concentration and sperm morphology (practical)</td>
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#### Embryology

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*Pilot Schemes

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<th>Test Type</th>
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<td>Preimplantation Genetic Testing of Blastomere/Fetal Tissue (Molecular methods)</td>
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<td>Preimplantation Genetic Testing of Blastomere by NGS and/or arrays</td>
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<td>Preimplantation Genetic Testing of Trophectoderm for aneuploidies by NGS and/or arrays</td>
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<td>Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT-A) of Sperm</td>
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**Notes**

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- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

UK NEQAS Centre contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Tel:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellular Pathology Technique</td>
<td>+44 (0) 191 445 2719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cpt@ukneqas.org.uk">cpt@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head &amp; Neck Pathology</td>
<td>+44 (0) 121 371 5723</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neckpath@ukneqas.org.uk">neckpath@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunocytochemistry &amp; In-Situ Hybridisation</td>
<td>+44 (0) 207 415 7065</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@ukneqasiccish.org">info@ukneqasiccish.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham Quality</td>
<td>+44 (0) 121 414 7300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Markers</td>
<td>+44 (0) 141 354 9039</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh Peptide Hormones</td>
<td>+44 (0) 131 242 6885</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ukneqas@ed.ac.uk">ukneqas@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guildford Peptide Hormones</td>
<td>+44 (0) 1483 689 022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trace Elements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Coagulation</td>
<td>+44 (0) 114 267 3300</td>
<td><a href="mailto:coag@ukneqas.org.uk">coag@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Transfusion Laboratory Practice</td>
<td>+44 (0) 1923 217 933</td>
<td><a href="mailto:btlp@ukneqas.org.uk">btlp@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematology</td>
<td>+44 (0) 1923 217 878</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haem@ukneqas.org.uk">haem@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leucocyte Immunophenotyping</td>
<td>+44 (0) 114 267 3600</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lip@ukneqas.org.uk">lip@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin K</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:keqas@ukneqas.org.uk">keqas@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Histocompatibility &amp; Immunogenetics</td>
<td>+44 (0) 1443 622 185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunology, Immunohematology &amp; Allergy</td>
<td>+44 (0) 114 271 5715</td>
<td><a href="mailto:immunology@ukneqas.org.uk">immunology@ukneqas.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Microbiology</td>
<td>+44 (0) 208 905 9890</td>
<td><a href="mailto:organiser@ukneqasmicro.org">organiser@ukneqasmicro.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasitology</td>
<td>+44 (0) 203 908 1371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genomics</td>
<td>+44 (0) 1865 857 644 (Oxford) or +44 (0) 131 242 6898 (Edinburgh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductive Science</td>
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<td>UK National Breast Pathology Interpretive External Assurance Scheme</td>
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