QCMD
Quality Control for Molecular Diagnostics

EQA/PT SCHEMES FOR MOLECULAR INFECTIOUS DISEASE TESTING

2025 CATALOGUE

Version number CAT2025/01

EQA FOR MOLECULAR INFECTIOUS DISEASE TESTING

QCMD (Quality Control for Molecular Diagnostics) is an independent External Quality Assessment (EQA) / Proficiency Testing (PT) provider specialising in molecular testing of a wide range of infectious diseases.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE QCMD EQA SCHEMES

The aim of QCMD's External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes is to help monitor and improve laboratory quality by assessing a laboratory's use of molecular testing for infectious diseases. The EQA schemes are both educational and regulatory in application and support continuous quality improvement, as well as assist laboratory accreditation / certification to ISO15189 or equivalent.

Who can participate?

The EQA schemes are provided global either directly from QCMD or through one of many QCMD approved QA collaborators and distributors. To register or find out more go to www.QCMD.org

The EQA scheme format

All individual QCMD EQA schemes have their own design specifications which are agreed by the QCMD scientific experts / advisors for each scheme. The distribution frequencies (number of challenges per year) within an EQA scheme often vary in different countries due to regional regulatory requirements. As a result, QCMD offers a range of options from a single challenge per year to a 4 challenge EQA format per year depending on the EQA scheme.

Participants can select which EQA format is best for their laboratory and regulatory requirements.
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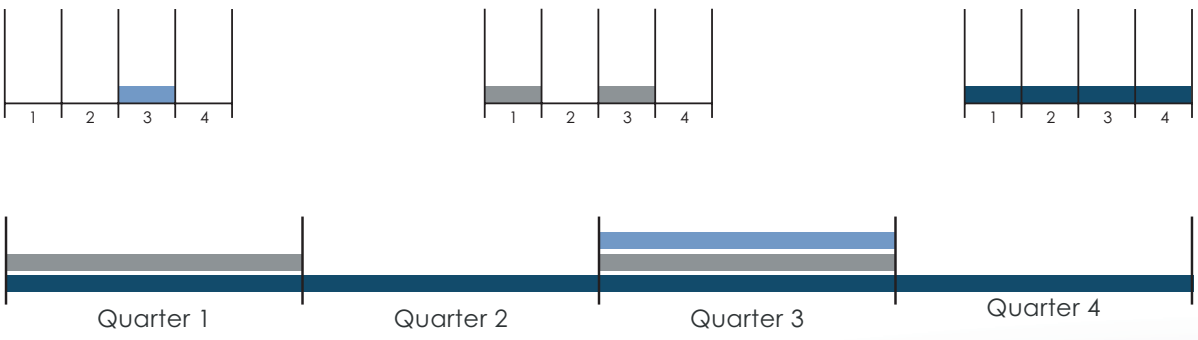
For more details on the format of each of the EQA schemes see the individual EQA specifications within the catalogue or visit the QCMD website.

For example, the HIVRNA, HBV, and HCV BBV viral load EQA schemes are provided with the option of either 1, 2 or 4 challenges per year.

1 CHALLENGE	2 CHALLENGES	4 CHALLENGES
Catalogue No. QAV994108_1	**Catalogue No.** QAV994108_2	**Catalogue No.** QAV994108_4
Panel Members: 8 per Challenge	**Panel Members:** 4 per Challenge	**Panel Members:** 4 per Challenge



Distribution and Testing Period(s)

EQA Distribution schedule

The EQA schemes are distributed at set dates throughout the year. An outline of the distribution schedule is provided in appendix I and further details regarding the annual distribution schedule are provided on registration through the QCMD website (www.qcmd.org). On receipt of the EQA panel the laboratory has a defined period of time to test the panel and return their results to QCMD through the secure web-based portal. An outline of the testing periods is also provided within appendix I.

QCMD EQA Reports & feedback

After close of the EQA results return phase, Laboratories receive an individual report for the EQA challenge / scheme they have participated in. This provides an overview of their performance in relation to their method / technology type peer group and where appropriate the overall consensus from all participants within the EQA scheme.

On completion of the EQA scheme, a supplementary report may be provided (depending on the EQA scheme).

The supplementary report includes any relevant additional information regarding the recent EQA scheme, and where appropriate any Scientific Expert commentary / feedback on the overall EQA scheme results. Where required, National EQA providers or country specific EQA groups are also provided with an additional country specific EQA report.

Further information

For further details register on line and visit your profile area, download the QCMD participant manual at www.QCMD.org

BENEFITS

EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OFFERING

Boasting the largest selection of molecular EQA programmes for infectious disease testing, you are sure to find what you're looking for.

FREQUENCY

Choose between one, two and four challenges* per year to suit your laboratory requirements. Reports are available within 2 weeks of the submission deadline (up to 4 weeks for the drug resistance / sequence based schemes), ensuring any corrective actions can be taken quickly.

HIGH QUALITY MATERIAL

The availability of whole pathogen samples in clinically relevant matrices mimics the performance of patient samples and ensures samples can be used to effectively monitor the performance of the entire testing process.

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Where appropriate the EQA schemes are accredited to ISO 17043 highlighting the superior quality and organisation of the QCMD scheme.

ONLINE EQA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

IT EQA Management System (ITEMS) provides an online tool to easily manage all EQA activities from scheme registration to submission of results and provision of EQA reports.

HIGH LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

With over 15,000 participant registrations in more than 120 countries, peer groups are maximised, increasing statistical validity.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS

Individual reports are provided with each EQA challenge. In line with the requirements of ISO 17043, they provide the laboratories with their results and performance assessment in relation to their EQA assessment group (peer review group).

Supplementary reports which include scientific expert commentary may be provided at the end of the EQA cycle if appropriate.

***programme dependent**

HOW IT WORKS

The QCMD catalogue is extensive with more than 100 EQA/PT schemes and pilot studies covering over 300 target organisms.

The following diagram provides an overview of the schemes operation.

EQA REGISTRATION
Participants may register for EQA schemes online via the participant profile area.

MANAGEMENT
All aspects of the scheme can be easily managed using QCMD's unique IT EQA Management System (ITEMS).

DISTRIBUTION
Laboratories have a choice of one, two or four challenges per year.

EQA TESTING
Laboratory analyses each sample. The number of samples is programme dependent.

DATA COLLECTION
Results are returned to QCMD for analysis. Due to our high level of participation a wide variety of workflows are covered.

EQA REPORTS
Participant receives a report within 2 weeks (up to 4 weeks for the drug resistance / sequence based schemes) summarising their performance in comparison to their peer group.

EQA GROUPS

BLOODBORNE VIRUS

The Bloodborne Virus (BBV) group of QCMD External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes consists of pathogens that are detected from the blood. This includes human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) B19 virus (B19) and more recently hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis E virus (HEV) and hepatitis D virus (HDV).

To compliment the detection and viral load determination schemes above a range of genotyping and drug resistance BBV EQA schemes are available.

For the drug resistance BBV EQA schemes different current resistance markers are included and emphasis is placed on the determination and interpretation of these resistance markers.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Infections of the Central Nervous System (CNS) can occur indirectly via the blood following damage to the blood brain barrier or directly through intraneuronal routes. Encephalitis and meningitis are important CNS infections which can have viral, bacterial or parasitic origins.

Viral encephalitis can occur as a result of acute infection or as the consequence of latent infection. Common viral causes include herpes simplex virus (HSV), specific enteroviruses (EV), JC and BK virus, as well as Varicella- Zoster virus (VZV). Bacterial infections within the CNS such as meningitis can be a result of direct infection of the brain or may be due to underlying diseases which can lead to secondary CNS infection. Parasites such as *Toxoplasma gondii* can also cause CNS infections particularly in immunocompromised individuals.

In recent years significant advances have been made in understanding CNS pathogenesis with the development of molecular technologies for the diagnosis and monitoring of disease, the introduction of effective treatment therapies and, in some cases, the development of vaccines (e.g. Japanese encephalitis & rabies). The range of QCMD EQA schemes within this area focus on pathogens known to play a significant clinical role in CNS infection. The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to assess the laboratories' ability in the detection and determination of the selected pathogen. Where appropriate pathogen load estimation is also evaluated.

CONGENITAL INFECTIONS

The term congenital infection is used to describe those infections transmitted from mother to child either during pregnancy (Transplacental infection) or immediately after childbirth. They can be caused by viruses, bacteria and on occasion parasites. The ability of a particular pathogen to cross the placenta and infect the foetus /embryo is dependent on many factors including the mother's immune status. Primary infections during pregnancy can result in spontaneous abortion or major developmental disorders if undetected and left untreated.

In recent years the diagnosis of congenital infections has been significantly improved by the ability to obtain clinical samples such as blood through chorionic villus sampling. In addition, the application of molecular technologies has helped significantly in the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment rationale. CMV Dried Blood Spots is one of the EQAs provided in this disease group.

DRUG RESISTANCE

The ability of microorganisms to adapt and develop resistance to antimicrobials is natural and an evolutionary trait they have been employing for thousands of years. Hence there are many examples of drug resistant strains in viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases. However, it is well recognised that the over prescription of antimicrobials within clinical practice and their overuse in domestic products has helped to accelerate drug resistance and led to the emergence of multidrug resistance.

QCMD has established a range of Drug Resistance EQA schemes covering a variety of pathogen types. The primary aims of these schemes are to assess the laboratory in their ability to detect and determine the presence of drug resistance at the molecular level. In addition, some of the schemes also cover drug resistance interpretation.

EXOTIC/EMERGING DISEASES

A complex relationship exists between pathogen genetics, host and the environment. As a result, predicting the future emergence of exotic diseases is difficult. However, globalisation coupled with rapid increases in human populations over the last 50 years has played an important role. Local environmental changes such as deforestation due to urbanisation bring humans into closer contact with potential new pathogen vectors. These factors disturb the subtle balance between pathogen, host and the environment and create the opportunity for the emergence of new disease pathogens or the re-emergence of existing pathogens. These diseases can be caused by newly identified pathogens, pathogen strains such as SARS or the mutation of existing strains such as Influenza virus. In addition, the spread of known pathogens (e.g. West Nile virus & dengue virus) into new geographical areas leading to new potential endemics account for a large number of exotic / emerging diseases. The EQAs within this group focus on those emerging diseases that are frequently being identified within progressive geographic regions.

GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES

Gastroenteritis can be caused by a wide variety of bacteria, viruses and parasites. It is often associated with severe inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract involving both the stomach and small intestine. This results in acute diarrhoea and vomiting.

Diagnosis is primarily based on clinical symptoms but laboratory diagnosis on the etiological cause is often needed in order to support patient care. In recent years molecular diagnostic techniques such as real-time PCR have also been introduced for the laboratory diagnosis of gastroenteritis, including the ability to simultaneously screen for a wide range of enteric pathogens using multiplex assays. As a result, molecular diagnostic techniques are increasingly being used in the routine laboratory setting for detection, determination and surveillance of a wide range of enteric pathogens.

The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to allow laboratories to assess their ability in the use of molecular diagnostic tests for a range of viral, bacterial and parasitic enteric pathogens.

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED ASSOCIATED DISEASES

The treatment and management of patients with compromised immune systems has seen important developments in recent years with, for example, the introduction of novel multi-drug treatment regimes. As a result, the healthcare and management of immunocompromised patients has greatly improved. However, pathogen infection or viral reactivation remain significant contributors to morbidity and mortality in these patients.

A number of opportunistic parasitic, fungal and viral pathogens are of concern in the management of immunocompromised patients due to both acute infection and reactivation of latent virus in the immunocompromised host.

Advances in molecular diagnostics have allowed accurate pathogen assessment and quantitative monitoring, particularly of viral activity over time, which allows early and accurate pre-emptive intervention and management of antiviral drug therapy.

The range of QCMD EQA schemes within this area focus on pathogens known to play a significant clinical role in the management of immunocompromised patients. The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to assess the ability of laboratories in the detection of the selected pathogen and where appropriate quantitative estimation is also evaluated.

MULTIPLE PATHOGEN/SYNDROMIC

Multiplex based molecular diagnostic tests offer the ability for the detection of a wide range of pathogens within a single diagnostic test.

Syndromic approaches to test respiratory, gastroenteritis and meningitis infections allows clinicians to identify the cause of infection from a wide range of pathogens often in a near patient, point of impact setting where rapid diagnosis aids faster clinical decision making and patient treatment. These technologies are generally used as a screening approach where identification of pathogens allow improved patient management at initial point of contact.

QCMD have introduced multi-pathogen/syndromic schemes to address this growing need in the clinical setting. A range of schemes cover respiratory infections, transplant associated infections, central nervous system infections, sexually transmitted infections and gastroenteritis infections caused by a range of aetiologies.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Respiratory tract infections (RTIs) are common conditions, experienced by most adults and children each year. They can affect both the upper and lower respiratory tract and range from the common cold to viral and bacterial pneumonia. For the young, the elderly and the immune compromised, RTIs can be a significant health threat if not managed effectively.

RTIs can be caused by a large number of bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens which have nearly indistinguishable physiological symptoms. This can increase the chances of undiagnosed or misdiagnosed infections leading to patients either not receiving critical medications, or receiving unnecessary antibiotics. The advance of molecular diagnostic techniques has improved our ability to rapidly determine the causative agents of RTIs and has the potential to improve patient management, control of nosocomial transmission and promote targeted therapy.

The Respiratory EQA schemes cover 17 of the major viral, bacterial and fungal causes of RTIs, focusing on the pathogen load and allowing assessment of the laboratories ability to accurately identify the species of interest at clinically relevant levels.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remain a major public health concern throughout the world with some infections reaching epidemic proportions in sexually active groups. As a result, a number of WHO and UN global strategies have been initiated in an attempt to control the spread of STIs.

STIs are the main preventable cause of infertility, particularly in women. However, some STIs remain asymptomatic before leading to serious reproductive complications and congenital infections, therefore appropriate diagnosis and treatment is essential.

Molecular diagnostic assays allow the accurate assessment of STIs in patients that present with similar symptoms or asymptomatic persons from at risk groups allowing early and accurate intervention and treatment.

The range of QCMD EQA schemes within this area focus on pathogens known to be the most common cause of STIs. The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to assess the ability of laboratories in the detection of the selected pathogen.

TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATED DISEASES

Advances in transplant medicine, including the development of immunosuppressive agents, has greatly improved the prospects of transplant recipients. However, pathogen infection and in particular viral reactivation remain significant contributors to transplant patient morbidity and mortality.

A number of viruses are of particular concern, these include: human herpes virus6 (HHV6), human cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) along with human adenovirus (ADV), JC virus (JCV) and BK virus (BKV). Other opportunistic infections such as the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* are also relevant. Advances in molecular diagnostics have allowed accurate pathogen assessment prior to transplant and accurate quantitative monitoring, particularly of viral activity over time, after the transplant has been performed. This in turn allows early and accurate pre-emptive intervention and antiviral drug therapy.

The range of QCMD EQA schemes within this area focus on those pathogens known to play a significant clinical role in transplant medicine. The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to assess the ability of laboratories in the detection of the selected pathogen and where appropriate quantitative estimation is also evaluated.

TYPING

Advances in the treatment and management of patient infection have seen important developments in recent years. In particular the introduction of novel antiviral drug therapies has improved the medium and long- term prospects of infected patients. However, the development of drug resistant pathogens is an increasing complication and remains a significant factor in the treatment of these patient groups.

The use of genotyping and sequencing technologies has allowed accurate pathogen assessment and monitoring of patient samples over time. This allows early and accurate determination of pathogen status. Which in turn allows pre-emptive intervention and management of antiviral drug therapy.

The range of QCMD EQA schemes within this area focus on pathogens known to play a significant clinical role in the management of infection. The general aim of this group of EQA schemes is to assess the ability of laboratories in the genetic determination of the selected pathogen and where appropriate the specific mutation points within the target gene.

OTHER

QCMD are continuously expanding our range of EQA schemes, some of which are outside the defined EQA groups listed above

VIRAL EQA

ADENOVIRUS

ADVDNA25 - QAV054133

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of adenovirus.
To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different adenovirus serotypes including currently circulating serotypes of interest.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV054133_1	QAV054133_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Plasma	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Condition	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

B19 VIRUS

B19DNA25 - QAV034116

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in detection and quantitation of B19 virus.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV034116_1	QAV034116_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	8	4
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

BK VIRUS

BKDNA25 - QAV144166

To assess the proficiency of laboratories molecular assays in detecting various types and concentrations of BK virus (BKV). To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the reliable quantitation of BKV viral load.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV144166_1	QAV144166_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Plasma and/or Urine	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

CHIKV25 - QAV154175

To assess the laboratory's ability to detect chikungunya virus using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV154175_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CMV DRUG RESISTANCE

CMVDR25 - QAV144169

To assess the laboratories' ability to detect CMV drug resistance mutations in kinase UL97, polymerase UL54 gene and the UL56 that forms part of the terminase, using sequencing techniques.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV144169_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	various mutations - kinase (UL97) and polymerase (UL54) genes
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Condition	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CORONAVIRUS

CVRNA25 - QAV064137

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of coronavirus. To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different coronavirus genotypes.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064137_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS DRIED BLOOD SPOTS

CMVDBS25 - QAV064127

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of clinically relevant levels of human cytomegalovirus (CMV) from dried blood spots.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064127_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3

Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Dried Blood Spots
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	2x50µl
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	DNA extraction from dried blood spot
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS WHOLE BLOOD

CMVWB25 - QAV124150

To evaluate the ability of laboratories in the detection of CMV from whole blood samples. To assess the precision of molecular assays at clinically relevant viral loads.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV124150_1	QAV124150_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4

Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-30°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

DENGUE VIRUS

DENVRNA25 - QAV114148

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of dengue virus. To assess the proficiency of laboratories in distinguishing dengue virus from other flaviviruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV114148_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

ENTEROVIRUS

EVRNA25 - QAV984104

To assess the ability of laboratories molecular assays to detect different types and concentrations of enterovirus (EV). To review the performance of laboratories quantitative EV molecular assays.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV984104_1	QAV984104_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

ENTEROVIRUS TYPING

EVTP25 - QAV164185

To assess laboratories ability to correctly identify specific enterovirus types using their routine molecular method and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV164185_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS

EBVDNA25 - QAV024121

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV024121_1	QAV024121_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Plasma	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS WHOLE BLOOD

EBVWB25 - QAV134161

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in whole blood samples.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV134161_1	QAV134161_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-30°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HBV DRUG RESISTANCE

HBVDR25 - QAV124160

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA polymerase gene using sequencing techniques and/or LiPA technology.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV124160_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Various mutations – DNA polymerase
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HBV GENOTYPING

HBVGT25 - QAV064118

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct genotyping of hepatitis B virus (HBV) using molecular methods.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064118_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material
Genotypic Variant	Various HBV genotypes
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HCV DRUG RESISTANCE

HCVDR25 - QAV134167

The QCMD HCV Drug Resistance (HCVDR) scheme has to-date been based around resistance to the first-generation Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) NS3 protease inhibitors, boceprevir and telaprevir, which became widely available circa 2011. However the "previr" family of drugs are only effective against HCV genotype 1 infections limiting the scope of the HCVDR scheme to single genotype, single gene target. First generation DAAs were supplemented in 2014 with the release of the first "buvir" NS5b inhibitors for use against genotype 1 followed by the release of the first NS5a inhibitor "asvir" family of drugs in 2015, which are effective against both genotype 1 and 3 infections.

All three drug families are now in routine use and are included in both the WHO list of essential medicines and the national guidelines of several countries for treatment of HCV. Based on this the HCVDR scheme has been updated to reflect the current clinical environment with regards to drug resistance testing.

The aim of the HCVDR EQA is to assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotypes 1 and 3 (NS3 and NS5 regions) using sequencing techniques.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV134167_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Various mutations – NS3 and NS5a regions
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HCV GENOTYPING

HCVGT25 - QAV034117

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct genotyping of hepatitis C virus (HCV) using molecular methods.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV034117_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material
Genotypic Variant	Various HCV genotypes and subtypes
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HEPATITIS A VIRUS

HAVRNA25 - QAV124156

To evaluate the ability of laboratories in the molecular detection of hepatitis A virus (HAV) in terms of sensitivity and specificity.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV124156_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HEPATITIS B VIRUS

HBVDNA25 - QAV994110

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of hepatitis B virus (HBV). To assess the proficiency of laboratories is the detection and quantitation of different HBV genotypes.

Feature	Available format(s)		
Catalogue Number	QAV994110_1	QAV994110_2	QAV994110_4
Total Number of Challenges	1	2	4
Number of Panel Members	8	4	4
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3	Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4
Specifications			
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material		
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma		
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted		
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range		
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml		
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU		
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative		
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies		
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice		
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043		

HEPATITIS C VIRUS

HCVRNA25 - QAV994112

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA. To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of different HCV genotypes.

Feature	Available format(s)		
Catalogue Number	QAV994112_1	QAV994112_2	QAV994112_4
Total Number of Challenges	1	2	4
Number of Panel Members	8	4	4
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3	Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4
Specifications			
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material		
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma		
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted		
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range		
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml		
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU		
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative		
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies		
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice		
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043		

HEPATITIS D VIRUS

HDV25 - QAV144170

To evaluate laboratories in the detection of HDV within the routine clinical setting.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV144170_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HEPATITIS E VIRUS

HEVRNA25 - QAV124157

To evaluate the ability of laboratories in the detection and quantification of hepatitis E virus (HEV).

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV124157_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.6 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately, Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS 1& 2

HSVDNA25 - QAV994105

To assess the ability of laboratories molecular assays to detect different types and concentrations of herpes simplex virus (HSV).To review the performance of laboratories quantitative HSV molecular assays.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV994105_1	QAV994105_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport medium and/or synthetic CSF	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS DRUG RESISTANCE

HSVDR25 - QAV164184

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (UL23) and DNA polymerase (UL30) genes using sequencing techniques.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV164184_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Various mutations - Thymidine Kinase (UL23) and DNA polymerase (UL30)
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse acordingly
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HIV-1 (DNA)

HIVDNA25 - QAV034114

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) pro-viral DNA.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV034114_1	QAV034114_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	8	4
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured proviral cells	
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.2 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse acordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HIV-1 (RNA)

HIVRNA25 - QAV994108

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in detection and quantitation of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) RNA. To assess the proficiency of laboratories in detection and quantitation of different HIV genotypes.

Feature	Available format(s)		
Catalogue Number	QAV994108_1	QAV994108_2	QAV994108_4
Total Number of Challenges	1	2	4
Number of Panel Members	8	4	4
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3	Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4
Specifications			
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material		
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma		
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted		
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range		
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2 ml		
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU		
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative		
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies		
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice		
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043		

HIV-1 DRUG RESISTANCE

HIVDR25 - QAV024131

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the HIV-1 protease and reverse transcriptase genes.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV024131_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Various mutations - reverse transcriptase (RT) and protease (PR) genes
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HIV-1 DRUG RESISTANCE (INTEGRASE)

HIVDRint25 - QAV114146

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of drug resistance mutations in the HIV-1 integrase gene using sequencing techniques.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV114146_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Panel Member Target Range	Various mutations - integrase (INT) gene
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Sequence Analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HIV-2

HIV2_25 - QAV204212

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of human immunodeficiency virus type2 (HIV-2).

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV204212_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.2ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly.
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HUMAN CYTOMEGALOVIRUS

CMVDNA25 - QAV014120

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection and quantitation of human cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV014120_1	QAV014120_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HUMAN HERPES VIRUS 6

HHV6DNA25 - QAV084119

To assess the proficiency of laboratories' molecular assays in the detection of various types of human herpes virus 6 (HHV6). To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the reliable quantitation of HHV6 viral load.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV084119_1	QAV084119_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Genotypic Variant	Subtypes A and B	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Plasma	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HUMAN METAPNEUMOVIRUS

MPV25 - QAV054135

To assess the sensitivity and specificity of laboratories in the detection of human metapneumovirus (MPV). To assess the ability of laboratories in the detection of different human MPV types.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV054135_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (PRESERVCYT)

HPVPRES25 - QAV094130

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection has been detected in over 95% of cervical cancers. The second most common cancer detected in females worldwide. The detection of HPV infection is an important part of the triage, with cytomorphological examination in the early detection of cervical cancer in scrapings. For effective triage, quantitative detection and accurate HPV-typing at clinically relevant levels is essential. The introduction of nucleic acid amplification technologies (NAT) and nucleic acid hybridisation assays has led to the development of sensitive, type specific diagnostic tests that can rapidly identify HPV infection. As a result, these tests are now of great practical and clinical relevance. The aim of the EQA is to assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different high risk Human Papillomavirus types within a PreservCyt matrix.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV094130_1	QAV094130_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	12	6
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material and/or cell lines containing HPV	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium (PreservCyt)	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	15-30°C / Liquid Ambient	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (SUREPATH)

HPVSURE25 - QAV184204

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection has been detected in over 95% of cervical cancers, the second most common cancer detected in females worldwide. The detection of HPV infections is an important part of the triage with cytomorphological examination in the early detection of cervical cancer in scrapings. For effective triage, quantitative detection and accurate HPV- typing at clinically relevant levels is essential. The introduction of nucleic acid amplification technologies (NAT) and nucleic acid hybridisation assays has led to the development of sensitive, type specific diagnostic tests that can rapidly identify HPV infection. As a result, these tests are now of great practical and clinical relevance.

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different high risk Human Papillomavirus types within a SurePath™ matrix.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV184204_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	12
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material and/or cell lines containing HPV
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium (SurePath)
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

INFLUENZA A & B VIRUS

INFRNA25 - QAV054134

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in detection of influenza virus RNA.
To assess the proficiency of laboratories in distinguishing influenza virus A and B.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV054134_1	QAV054134_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

INFLUENZA TYPING

INFTP25 - QAV064138

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different influenza virus types, subtypes and lineages To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the typing and subtyping/lineage determination of influenza viruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064138_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

JC VIRUS

JCDNA25 - QAV074106

To assess the proficiency of laboratories molecular assays in detecting various types and concentrations of JC virus (JCV). To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the reliable quantitation of JCV viral load.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV074106_1	QAV074106_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Plasma	
Units of Measurement	The primary unit is IU/ml however other units will be accepted	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

MEASLES / MUMPS

MM25 - QAV144171

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of mumps and/or measles using routine molecular methods.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV144171_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

MERS CORONAVIRUS

MERS25 - QAV154181

To assess the proficiency of laboratories molecular technologies for the detection and determination of MERS-CoV from other coronaviruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV154181_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

NOROVIRUS

NVRNA25 - QAV084139

To assess the specificity and sensitivity of laboratories in the detection of norovirus. To assess the ability of the laboratories to detect different norovirus genogroups.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV084139_1	QAV084139_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Synthetic Faecal Matrix	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml VTM, 0.1 ml Buffer	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	NA samples are ready for analysis. Pre-treatment may be needed for SFM. Follow manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS

PINFRNA25 - QAV064136

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of parainfluenza virus.
To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different parainfluenza virus types.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064136_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

PARECHOVIRUS

PEVRNA25 - QAV114145

To assess the ability of laboratories molecular assays to detect different types and concentrations of parechovirus.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV114145_1	QAV114145_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS

RSV25 - QAV054142

To assess the specificity and sensitivity of laboratories in the detection of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) by NAT. To assess the ability of laboratories in the detection of different RSV types by NAT.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV054142_1	QAV054142_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RHINOVIRUS

RVRNA25 - QAV064143

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of rhinovirus.
To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of different rhinovirus genotypes

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV064143_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

SARS-COV-2

SCV2_25 - QAV204215

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of the new variant SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus including variants of concern (VOC). To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the differentiation of different coronavirus genotypes.

Feature	Available format(s)			
Catalogue Number	QAV204215_1A	QAV204215_1B	QAV204215_1C	QAV204215_1D
Total Number of Challenges	1	1	1	1
Number of Panel Members	5	5	5	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Specifications				
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material			
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium			
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range			
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml			
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly			
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative			
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies			
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice			
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043			

TORQUE TENO VIRUS

TTV25 - QAV184203

The aim of the Torque Teno Virus (TTV) EQA is to assess laboratories ability to detect TTV using routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV184203_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	6
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS

VZVDNA25 - QAV034103

To assess the ability of laboratories molecular assays to detect different concentrations of Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV). To review the performance of laboratories quantitative VZV molecular assays.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV034103_1	QAV034103_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured virus and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport medium and/or synthetic CSF	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

WEST NILE VIRUS

WNVRNA25 - QAV104141

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of West Nile virus.
To determine the proficiency of laboratories in distinguishing West Nile virus from other flaviviruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV104141_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

YELLOW FEVER VIRUS

YFV25 - QAV194207

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of yellow fever virus.
To determine the proficiency of laboratories in distinguishing yellow fever virus from other flaviviruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV194207_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

ZIKA VIRUS

ZIKA25 - QAV164186

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of Zika virus and determine the proficiency of laboratories in distinguishing Zika virus from other flaviviruses.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV164186_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

BACTERIAL EQA

ATYPICAL MYCOBACTERIUM

NTM25 - QAB194208

To assess the proficiency of laboratories to detect atypical mycobacterium or non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM).

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB194208_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Pre-treatment not generally required - follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Liquid Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

BACTERIAL 16S RIBOSOMAL RNA

B16SrRNA25 - QAB164183

To assess the proficiency of laboratories to detect, identify and interpret which bacterial species are provided within each panel member using their routine 16S rRNA molecular diagnostic procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB164183_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS

BPDNA25 - QAB094132

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the detection of *Bordetella pertussis*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB094132_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

BORRELIA BURGDORFERI SPP. (LYME DISEASE)

BbDNA25 - QAB114147

To assess the qualitative detection of *B. burgdorferi* sensu lato genospecies complex at different concentrations.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB114147_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CHLAMYDIA PSITTACI

CPS25 - QAB134165

To assess the laboratories ability in the molecular detection of *Chlamydia psittaci*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB134165_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS AND NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE

CTNG25 - QAB174191

To assess proficiency of laboratories in the detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using molecular technologies.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB174191_1	QAB174191_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured bacteria and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Urine and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

CHLAMYDOPHILA PNEUMONIAE

CP25 - QAB084107

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct detection of *Chlamydophila pneumoniae*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB084107_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE

CDDNA25 - QAB084125

A terminology update in the Clostridium field has introduced a name change from *Clostridium difficile* to *Clostridioides difficile* this has been adopted by the European Study Group for *Clostridium difficile*. Please note that QCMD will however continue to refer to this scheme and associated pathogens as *Clostridium difficile* at this time.

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the molecular detection of *Clostridium difficile*.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB084125_1	QAB084125_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Synthetic Faecal Matrix	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

DIARRHEAGENIC ESCHERICHIA COLI

E.COLI25 - QAB154179

To assess laboratories ability to detect diarrheagenic *E. coli* strains using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB154179_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic Faecal Matrix and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular Typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

EXTENDED SPECTRUM β-LACTAMASE AND CARBAPENEMASE

ESBL25 - QAB134162

To assess the laboratories ability to detect β-lactamase and carbapenemase coding genes in a clinical setting using their routine molecular diagnostic procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB134162_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Genotypic Variant	Various drug resistance strains
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS

GBS25 - QAB174200

To assess the laboratories ability in the qualitative detection of group B Streptococcus using their routine molecular diagnostic procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB174200_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Synthetic CSF and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

HELICOBACTER PYLORI

H.PYLORI25 - QAB164190

To assess the laboratories ability in the qualitative detection of *H. pylori* and where appropriate, the identification of *H. pylori* antibiotic resistance status using their routine molecular diagnostic procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB164190_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic Faecal Matrix and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for the SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

LEGIONELLA SPP.

LPDNA25 - QAB044122

To assess proficiency of laboratories in the detection of *Legionella* species.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB044122_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q1
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured bacteria and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU.
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS TYPING (EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OUTBREAK STUDIES)

UPDATED

MRSATP25 - QAB074128

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the molecular typing for outbreak analysis of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

This EQA scheme is suitable for all molecular methods for typing *Staphylococcus aureus* strains including SPA typing and whole genome sequence analysis, where the type and/or the relationship between isolates can be determined.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB074128_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Genetic variants of *Staphylococcus aureus*
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.2 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Culture followed by standard NA extraction
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Liquid Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

MRSADNA25 - QAB064124

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB064124_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Liquid Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

MTBDNA25 - QAB014129

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the molecular detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB014129_1	QAB014129_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Sputum and/or Synthetic Sputum and/or Synthetic CSF	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Pre-treatment may be required for the sputum samples – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Liquid Ambient	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS DRUG RESISTANCE

MTBDR25 - QAB194209

To assess the proficiency of laboratories to detect and differentiate MTB drug resistance strains using their routine molecular diagnostic procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB194209_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Genotypic Variant	Various drug resistance strains
Matrix Panel Format	Sputum and/or Synthetic Sputum and/or Synthetic CSF
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Pre-treatment may be required for the sputum samples – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Liquid Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM

MG25 - QAB184205

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of *Mycoplasma genitalium*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB184205_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport medium and/or Urine and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE

MP25 - QAB174192

To assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct detection of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB174192_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

SYPHILIS

SYPH25 - QAB154180

To assess laboratories ability to detect *Treponema pallidum* using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB154180_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Urine and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

VANCOMYCIN RESISTANT ENTEROCOCCI

VRE25 - QAB134163

This EQA will focus on the laboratories ability to detect and determine different VRE in clinically relevant sample types using molecular techniques.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB134163_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Genotypic Variant	Various drug resistance strains
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Molecular typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

FUNGAL EQA

ASPERGILLUS SPP.

ASPDNA25 - QAF104140

To assess the qualitative detection of *Aspergillus* species at different concentrations.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAF104140_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Panel Member Sample Volume
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical Range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative, Quantative for information purposes only
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for Panel Member Sample Volume. Follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

CANDIDA SPP.

CANDNA25 - QAF124151

To evaluate the ability of laboratories to use molecular techniques for detection of *Candida* species.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAF124151_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical and analytical range
Sputum	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

DERMATOPHYTOSIS

DERMA25 - QAF164187

To assess laboratories ability to detect dermatophytes using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAF164187_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

PNEUMOCYSTIS JIROVECII PNEUMONIA (PCP)

PCPDNA25 - QAF114144

To assess laboratories ability in the molecular detection of *Pneumocystis jirovecii*.
To assess the sensitivity of molecular assays in routine clinical use for the detection of *P. jirovecii*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAF114144_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis Type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

PARASITIC EQA

TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS

TV25 - QAP184202

To assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP184202_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	8
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport medium, Urine and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

TOXOPLASMA GONDII

TGDNA25 - QAP044123

To assess the qualitative detection of *Toxoplasma gondii* at different concentrations.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAP044123_1	QAP044123_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Amniotic Fluid and/or Plasma	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

MPP EQA

ARTHROPOD-BORNE VIRUSES

ARBO25 - QAM194206

The Arthropod-borne virus EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of different arthropod-borne viruses (including viruses from Flavi-, Toga-, Bunya-, and/or Reoviridae families). The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios (fever, haemorrhagic symptoms and/or neurological illness) and may include medically important arboviruses such as tick-borne encephalitis viruses, sandfly fever viruses, Japanese encephalitis viruses, Rift Valley fever viruses, Usutu virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, or St. Louis encephalitis virus. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAM194206_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-Treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis Type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C /Lyophilised Ambient
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

BACTERIAL GASTROENTERITIS

GASTROB25 - QAB124153

Different species of pathogenic bacteria are known to cause gastroenteritis. The panel members of this EQA will resemble clinical samples and may include current clinically relevant strains of *Salmonella, Shigella, Yersinia, E.coli* 0157, *C. difficile* or *Campylobacter* species. The aim of the Bacterial Gastroenteritis EQA is to assess laboratories ability to detect a range of bacterial pathogens known to cause gastroenteritis using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB124153_1	QAB124153_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic Faecal Matrix and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative.	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM I (VIRAL MENINGITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS)

CNSI25 - QAV174195

The central nervous system I (viral meningitis and encephalitis) EQA scheme will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various enterovirus, parechovirus, herpes simplex virus 1/2, Varicella-Zoster virus and JC virus strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV174195_1	QAV174195_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic CSF and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM II (NON-VIRAL MENINGITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS)

CNSII25 - QAM174196

The central nervous system II (non-viral meningitis and encephalitis) EQA scheme will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various *Listeria* spp, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Escherichia coli* K1, *Cryptococcus spp.*, *Aspergillus spp.* or *Haemophilus influenzae* strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAM174196_1	QAM174196_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic CSF and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

MALDI-TOF

MALDI25 - QAB124155

The primary aim of this EQA is to evaluate the ability of laboratories in the detection and determination of different clinically relevant isolates using MALDI-TOF and other similar mass spectrometry based technologies in the routine microbiology laboratory.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB124155_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Microbiological Medium and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Clinically relevant range of microorganisms for detection & determination
Panel Member Sample Volume	0.5 ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Culture followed by standard MALDI protocol
Panel Analysis type	Typing
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

PARASITIC GASTROENTERITIS

GASTROP25 - QAP124154

Parasites are a frequent cause of gastroenteritis and are a growing risk in this age of global travel. The panel members of this EQA will resemble clinical samples and may include current clinically relevant strains of *Giardia, Cryptosporidium, Dientamoeba, Blastocystis* and *Entamoeba*. The aim of the Parasitic Gastroenteritis EQA is to assess laboratories' ability to detect a range of parasitic pathogens known to cause gastroenteritis using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAP124154_1	QAP124154_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic Faecal Matrix and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RESPIRATORY I

RESPI25 - QAV164188

The Respiratory I EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various influenza A & B and respiratory syncytial virus strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB164188_1	QAV164188_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical Range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis Type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RESPIRATORY I PLUS

RESPIplus25 - QAM204216

The Respiratory I Plus EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various influenza A & B, respiratory syncytial virus strains and SARS-Cov-2. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAM204216_1A	QAM204216_1B
Total Number of Challenges	1	1
Number of Panel Members	10	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2	Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering Clinical Range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis Type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RESPIRATORY II

RESPII25 - QAV164189

The Respiratory II EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of human metapneumovirus, respiratory adenoviruses, rhinoviruses , coronaviruses, enterovirus and parainfluenza viruses. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV164189_1	QAV164189_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

RESPIRATORY III

RESPIII25 - QAM174193

The Respiratory III EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various *Bordetella pertussis, Legionella pneumophila, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Streptococcus pneumoniae* or *Haemophilus influenzae* strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and to report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAM174193_1	QAM174193_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3	Q1 & Q3
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

SEPSIS

SEPSIS25 - QAB164178

This EQA scheme consists of a range of pathogens associated with sepsis such as *Staphylococcus spp., Escherichia coli, Enterococcus spp., Streptococcus spp., Klebsiella spp., Pseudomonas spp., and Candida spp., Pseudomonas* and *Candida spp.* The participating laboratory will be required to use their current molecular diagnostic processes and procedures for the detection and identification of microorganisms within blood or plasma based matrices.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB164178_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood and/or Plasma and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS I

STI_I25 - QAB154177

The aim of the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) EQA is to assess the laboratories' ability to detect a range of sexual transmitted infections known to cause disease using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures. The panel members will resemble clinical samples and may include current clinically relevant strains of *Mycoplasma genitalium, Mycoplasma hominis, Trichomonas vaginalis, Ureaplasma urealyticum* and *Gardnerella vaginalis.*

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAB154177_1	QAB154177_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Urine and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS II

STI_II25 - QAM174201

The sexually transmitted infection II EQA will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various *Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Treponema pallidum,* and herpes simplex virus strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and to report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAM174201_1	QAM174201_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Urine and/or Physiological Buffer and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	4.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

TRANSPLANTATION (VIRAL)

TRANS25 - QAM174198

The viral transplant EQA scheme will focus on the molecular detection and determination of various cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, human herpes virus 6, BK virus, B19 virus and adenovirus strains. The panel is designed to represent various clinical scenarios. Participating laboratories will be expected to test each panel using their appropriate molecular methods and to report their individual test results to QCMD.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAM174198_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q2
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Plasma and/or Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative & Quantitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043

VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS

GASTROV25 - QAV124152

Viruses are a major cause of gastroenteritis outbreaks. It has been estimated that at least 50% of foodborne gastroenteritis cases are caused by noroviruses. Approximately another 20% of cases, and the majority of severe cases in children, are due to rotavirus. Other clinically significant viral enteropathogens include adenovirus, particularly types 40 and 41, and astroviruses. The aim of the Viral Gastroenteritis EQA is to assess laboratories ability to detect a range of viral pathogens known to cause gastroenteritis using their routine molecular diagnostic platform and procedures. The panel members will resemble clinical samples and may include current clinically relevant strains of norovirus, rotavirus, astrovirus, sapovirus and adenovirus.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV124152_1	QAV124152_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic Faecal Matrix and/or Transport Medium	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment may be required for SFM. Follow test manufacturers IFU	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	
Accreditation/Regulatory Status	Accredited to ISO17043	

EQA PILOT STUDIES

BABESIA

BABESIA25 - QAP214219

Pathogens of the genus Babesia (Family: Babesiidae, Order: Piroplasmida) are important blood parasites in mammals and less frequently in birds. Of the more than 100 known tick-borne species, only a few have been identified as causing human infections. Of zoonotic importance are parasites of bovine babesiosis (*Babesia divergens* and *B. divergens*-like forms), rodent babesiosis (*B. microti*) and a few other Babesia species like B. venatorum in wild deer. During a blood meal, hard-bodied ticks (e.g. Ixodes ricinus) inoculate sporozoites with their saliva, which, like plasmodia, enter human erythrocytes and undergo asexual reproduction.

In Europe, *B. divergens* is the main pathogen of human babesiosis. Infections have been reported in various European countries. In the United States, *B. microti* is the agent most frequently identified. Other cases have been reported from Africa, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan and India (*B. microti* or unidentified Babesia).

The diagnosis of an acute infection is confirmed through identification of Babesia on microscopic examination or detection of Babesia nucleic acid. Nucleic acid testing (NAT) correlates better correlates with active infection and more effectively identifies low-level infections than other laboratory tests, making them important for donor screening and donation testing to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted babesiosis.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct detection and identification of Babesia species causing human babesiosis.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP214219_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

BBV DRIED BLOOD SPOT

NEW

BBVDBS25 - QAM254228

Dried blood spot testing for blood borne virus diagnosis is typically used to support screening in settings where plasma or serum sampling and cold storage is challenging.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess the performance of laboratories in the detection of hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from dried blood spots.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP214217_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

CANDIDA AURIS

NEW

CANAUR25 - QAF254229

Candida auris (C. auris) is an emerging fungal pathogen associated with nosocomial infections. It is considered a serious global health threat due to its multi-drug resistance and difficulty of identification using standard methods which can misidentify *C. auris* as other phenotypically related *Candida* species. *C. auris* spreads easily in healthcare settings where some patients can develop severe and even life-threatening symptoms especially in immunocompromised patients. Early and correct identification of patients colonised with *C. auris* is critical in containing its spread.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess laboratories ability in the molecular detection and identification of *Candida auris*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP214217_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

CHAGAS

CHAGAS25 - QAP214217

Trypanosoma cruzi is the causative agent of Chagas disease or American trypanosomiasis. T. cruzi is primarily transmitted by triatomine bugs, known as "kissing bugs"; other transmission routes such as transplacental, blood transfusion, organ transplantation and contaminated food are known.

Since parasite detection is difficult during both the acute and the latent phase of infection, antibody detection plays a crucial role in laboratory diagnostics. Serologic testing is also the method for blood donor screening. Compared to conventional blood smears techniques, molecular tools such as PCR offer improved sensitivity for detection of acute and early congenital disease and are considered the test of choice in these settings. Also, PCR is maybe useful for monitoring reactivation in immunosuppressed patients or parasitological response to treatment.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct detection of *Trypanosoma cruzi* causing Chagas disease.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP214217_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS NON-BLOOD

CMVNB25 - QAV254230

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a betaherpes virus with a high prevalence (40-80%) in populations throughout the developed world. CMV is normally a latent lifelong infection that is completely asymptomatic in those infected with the virus.

The situation in persons with compromised immune systems such as transplant recipients is much more serious, with CMV recognised as one of the most important viral pathogens causing high rates of mortality and morbidity in these groups. It is also a highly prevalent congenital infectious agent throughout the developed world. The clinical consequences of infection may be present at birth or manifest themselves during childhood.

While blood samples are tested routinely and used for diagnosis and monitoring purposes, a range of other non-blood specimens are also extremely useful as they are non-invasive and usual have increased viral load, these samples include urine and salivary swab.

The introduction of nucleic acid amplification technologies (NAT) has led to the development of sensitive diagnostic tests that can rapidly confirm or exclude CMV infection. As a result, these tests are now of great practical and clinical relevance.

The aim of the EQA scheme is to assess the performance of molecular based assays on non-blood specimen types, which includes urine, swab and amniotic fluid.

Feature	Available format(s)	
Catalogue Number	QAV254230_1	QAV254230_2
Total Number of Challenges	1	2
Number of Panel Members	10	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q4	Q2 & Q4
Specifications		
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material	
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Urine and/or Amniotic Fluid	
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range	
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0 ml	
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly.	
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative.	
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies	
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice	

FRANCISELLA TULARENSIS

FRATUL25 - QAB214220

Tularemia is a severe zoonotic disease and is caused by the bacteria *Francisella tularensis*. Transmission is typically through the skin or mucous membranes. For example, infection can occur when improperly cooked meat (typically rabbit) is eaten or from contaminated water is drunk, inhalation or through arthropod bites. Reservoirs of *Francisella tularensis* include lagomorphs, rodents and blood-sucking arthropods.

Laboratory confirmation of tularemia consists in detecting the bacteria in a biological sample or a specific antibody response. Molecular methods (i.e. PCR) are rapid and can allow identification of the subspecies and obviate the need for cultivation. Serological methods are routinely used for diagnosis and are considered highly specific despite cross-reactions with Brucella, Yersinia, Proteus, Legionella and Mycoplasma species may occur.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess the proficiency of laboratories on the detection of *Francisella tularensis*.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB214220_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium and/or Physiological Buffer
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS

GAS25 - QAB234226

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is one of the most common causes of bacterial infections of the throat and skin. GAS or *Streptococcus pyogenes* is also the cause of 'Scarlet fever' which most commonly affects children between 5 and 15 years old. Early antibiotic treatment has been shown to be effective in reducing both the transmission and severity of disease therefore rapid diagnosis is key. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic resulted in an influx of near patient / PoC molecular testing platforms, with GAS added to the test menu of several commercial instruments for use within a non-laboratory, point of impact test setting or in a 'statim' or 'out of hours' capacity within the central laboratory. We have therefore introduced a pilot EQA to assess the performance of molecular GAS testing, allowing test sites to assess the performance of their assays.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAB234226_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice

JOINT INFECTON

JOINT25 - QAM244227

Bone and Joint infection diagnosis can be challenging as the symptoms are similar to other common conditions such as gout and rheumatoid arthritis. Culturing can require up to two weeks due to the potentially fastidious nature of the pathogens associated with this type of infection. Average sensitivity rates of approximately 72% have been recorded and this can be further reduced where antibiotics have been administered.

The aim of the joint infection pilot study is to assess the ability of laboratories to detect a range of Gram positive, Gram negative and fungal pathogens alongside common resistance markers using their routine molecular diagnostic platforms and procedures. The panel members will resemble clinical samples and will include current clinically relevant strains.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAM244227_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Thaw and test immediately. Pre-treatment not generally required – follow test manufacturers IFU
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative.
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice

MALARIA

MALARIA25 - QAP214218

Malaria is a life threatening, mosquito borne, infectious disease in humans. The causative agents of malaria are a number protozoan species of the genus Plasmodium.

There are five Plasmodium species that commonly cause disease in humans. *Plasmodium falciparum* is the causative agent for most cases of malaria (malaria tropica) and is found across Africa. *P. falciparum* and malaria tropica are the most severe form and account for the majority of malaria fatalities worldwide. *Plasmodium vivax* (malaria tertiana) is the second most prevalent species and is found mostly in Latin America and Asia, whereas *Plasmodium ovalae sensu lato*, which is also a causative agent of malaria tertiana, is mainly restricted to West African regions. *Plasmodium malariae* (malaria quartan) is found worldwide but at a relatively low incidence. *Plasmodium knowlesi* was identified as the causative agent of localised outbreaks in Malaysia and has since been reported in nearly all Southeast Asian countries.

In Europe, malaria is mainly a travel medicine issue. In patients with a fever of unknown cause and a stay in an area where malaria is endemic, acute malaria must be excluded. The diagnosis of malaria is based on microscopic, serological or molecular detection of Plasmodium species. Although microscopy is still the most routinely used method for diagnosis by clinical laboratories, molecular testing has become increasingly popular.

The pilot EQA scheme will assess the proficiency of laboratories in the correct detection of *Plasmodium* species.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAP214218_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Whole Blood
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	Lyophilised
Panel Sample Pre-treatment Requirement	Reconstitution of lyophilised material
Panel Analysis type	Qualitative. Quantitative for information purposes only
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	2-8°C / Lyophilised Ambient

POXVIRUSES

POX25 - QAV224225

Due to the global outbreak of monkeypox and increasing demand for laboratory preparedness, we have introduced a pilot EQA scheme for poxviruses that will include inactivated monkeypox virus and other orthopoxviruses (Cowpox, and Vaccinia). This will offer laboratories, that have recently set up generic orthopoxvirus or specific monkeypox virus molecular diagnostics, the opportunity to assess the performance of their assays.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV224225_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	10
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured and/or Clinical material
Matrix Panel Format	Transport Medium
Panel Member Target Range	Covering clinical range
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-Treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis Type	Qualitative
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice

VIRAL METAGENOMICS NGS

NGSMETA_25 - QAV204213

Viral metagenomics has been proposed as an unbiased method with unique clinical opportunities to identify the composition of clinical specimens without introduction of selection bias due to processing methods. The techniques used in these protocols are however complex and analysis methods require standardisation. This EQA pilot study aims to assess performance of existing metagenomics protocols as currently implemented by participating laboratories. Samples will be provided which will mimic cerebrospinal fluid samples containing known viral pathogens including enterovirus, herpes simplex virus and influenza virus.

Performance will be assessed based on the qualitative identification of viruses present in the samples, at the family, genus, species and subtype levels.

Feature	Available format(s)
Catalogue Number	QAV204213_1
Total Number of Challenges	1
Number of Panel Members	5
Distribution / Testing Period	Q3
Specifications	
Sample NA Target Source	Cultured material
Matrix Panel Format	Synthetic CSF + human cell lines
Panel Member Sample Volume	1.0ml
Panel Sample Pre-Treatment Requirement	Ready for analysis. Treat as clinical samples and analyse accordingly
Panel Analysis Type	Sequence analysis
Panel Testing	Evaluated by various molecular methodologies
Storage / Shipment Conditions	<-20°C / Frozen on Dry-ice

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TARGET PATHOGEN							PAGE NUMBER
SCHEME CODE	CATALOGUE NUMBER	NO. OF CHALLENGES	PANEL MEMBERS PER CHALLENGE	DISTRIBUTION DATE(S)/ TESTING PERIOD	SHIPPING CONDITIONS	ANALYSIS TYPE	SCHEME TYPE
Adenovirus							**Page 15**
ADVDNA25	QAV054133_1 QAV054133_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Arthropod-borne viruses							**Page 56**
ARBO25	QAM194206_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Aspergillus spp.							**Page 53**
ASPDNA25	QAF104140_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Fungal EQA
Atypical mycobacterium							**Page 42**
NTM25	QAB194208_1	1	10	Q1	Ambient	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
B19 virus							**Page 15**
B19DNA25	QAV034116_1 QAV034116_2	1 2	8 4	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Babesia							**Page 64**
BABESIA25	QAP214219_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Bacterial 16S Ribosomal RNA							**Page 42**
B16SrRNA25	QAB164183_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	Bacterial EQA
Bacterial Gastroenteritis							**Page 56**
GastroB25	QAB124153_1 QAB124153_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
BBV Dried Blood Spot							**Page 65**
BBVDBS25	QAM254228	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Pilot Study
BK virus (BKV)							**Page 16**
BKDNA25	QAV144166_1 QAV144166_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Bordetella pertussis							**Page 43**
BPDNA25	QAB094132_1	1	10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Borrelia burgdorferi spp. (Lyme Disease)							**Page 43**
BbDNA25	QAB114147_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Candida auris							**Page 65**
CANAUR25	QAF254229_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Pilot Study

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Candida spp.							**Page 53**
CANDNA25	QAF124151_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Fungal EQA
Central Nervous System I (viral Meningitis and Encephalitis)							**Page 57**
CNSI25	QAV174195_1 QAV174195_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Central Nervous System II (Non-viral Meningitis and Encephalitis)							**Page 57**
CNSII25	QAM174196_1 QAM174196_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Chagas							**Page 66**
CHAGAS25	QAP214217_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Chikungunya virus (CHIKV)							**Page 16**
CHIKV25	QAV154175_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Chlamydia psittaci							**Page 44**
CPS25	QAB134165_1	1	8	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae							**Page 44**
CTNg25	QAB174191_1 QAB174191_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Chlamydophila pneumoniae							**Page 45**
CP25	QAB084107_1	1	5	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
***Clostridium difficile* (CD)**							**Page 45**
CDDNA25	QAB084125_1 QAB084125_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Coronavirus (CoV)							**Page 17**
CVRNA25	QAV064137_1	1	10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Dried Blood Spots							**Page 18**
CMVDBS25	QAV064127_1	1	8	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Drug Resistance							**Page 17**
CMVDR25	QAV144169_1	1	5	Q2	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)							**Page 30**
CMVDNA25	QAV014120_1 QAV014120_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA

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Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Non-Blood							**Page 67**
CMVNB25	QAV254230_1 QAV254230_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Whole Blood							**Page 18**
CMVWB25	QAV124150_1 QAV124150_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Dengue virus (DENV)							**Page 19**
DENVRNA25	QAV114148_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Dermatophytosis							**Page 54**
DERMA25	QAF164187_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Fungal EQA
Diarrheagenic *Escherichia coli*							**Page 46**
E.COLI25	QAB154179_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	Bacterial EQA
Enterovirus (EV)							**Page 19**
EVRNA25	QAV984104_1 QAV984104_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Enterovirus Typing (EV)							**Page 20**
EVTP25	QAV164185_1	1	8	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	Viral EQA
Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)							**Page 20**
EBVDNA25	QAV024121_1 QAV024121_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) Whole Blood							**Page 21**
EBVWB25	QAV134161_1 QAV134161_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Extended Spectrum ß-lactamase and Carbapenemase							**Page 46**
ESBL25	QAB134162_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	Bacterial EQA
Francisella tularensis							**Page 68**
FRATUL25	QAB214220_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Group A Streptococcus							**Page 69**
GAS25	QAB234226_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Group B Streptococcus							**Page 47**
GBS25	QAB174200_1	1	8	Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA

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Helicobacter pylori							**Page 47**
H.PYLORI25	QAB164190_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Hepatitis A virus (HAV)							**Page 24**
HAVRNA25	QAV124156_1	1	8	Q1	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Hepatitis B virus (HBV)							**Page 25**
HBVDNA25	QAV994110_1 QAV994110_2 QAV994110_4	1 2 4	8 4 4	Q3 Q1, Q3 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) Drug Resistance							**Page 21**
HBVDR25	QAV124160_1	1	5	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) Genotyping							**Page 22**
HBVGT25	QAV064118_1	1	8	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	Viral EQA
Hepatitis C virus (HCV)							**Page 25**
HCVRNA25	QAV994112_1 QAV994112_2 QAV994112_4	1 2 4	8 4 4	Q3 Q1, Q3 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) Drug Resistance							**Page 23**
HCVDR25	QAV134167_1	1	5	Q3	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) Genotyping							**Page 24**
HCVGT25	QAV034117_1	1	8	Q1	Dry-ice	Typing	Viral EQA
Hepatitis D virus (HDV)							**Page 26**
HDV25	QAV144170_1	1	8	Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Hepatitis E virus (HEV)							**Page 26**
HEVRNA25	QAV124157_1	1	8	Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Herpes simplex virus 1 & 2 (HSV)							**Page 27**
HSVDNA25	QAV994105_1 QAV994105_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Herpes simplex virus Drug Resistance							**Page 27**
HSVDR25	QAV164184_1	1	5	Q1	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA

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Human herpes virus 6 (HHV6)							**Page 31**
HHV6DNA25	QAV084119_1 QAV084119_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
Human Immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) – DNA							**Page 28**
HIVDNA25	QAV034114_1 QAV034114_2	1 2	8 4	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Human Immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) – Drug Resistance							**Page 29**
HIVDR25	QAV024131_1	1	5	Q4	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA
Human Immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) – Drug Resistance (Integrase)							**Page 29**
HIVDRint25	QAV114146_1	1	5	Q4	Dry-ice	Drug Resistance / Sequencing	Viral EQA
Human Immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) – RNA							**Page 28**
HIVRNA25	QAV994108_1 QAV994108_2 QAV994108_4	1 2 4	8 4 4	Q3 Q1, Q3 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA
HIV-2							**Page 30**
HIV2_25	QAV204212_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Human metapneumovirus (MPV)							**Page 31**
MPV25	QAV054135_1	1	8	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – PreservCyt							**Page 32**
HPVPRES25	QAV094130_1 QAV094130_2	1 2	12 6	Q3 Q1, Q3	Ambient / Specialist	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Human Papillomavirus (Surepath)							**Page 33**
HPVSURE25	QAV184204_1	1	12	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Influenza A & B virus (FLU)							**Page 34**
INFRNA25	QAV054134_1 QAV054134_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Influenza Typing							**Page 34**
INFTP25	QAV064138_1	1	8	Q4	Dry-ice	Typing	Viral EQA
JC virus (JCV)							**Page 35**
JCDNA25	QAV074106_1 QAV074106_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Viral EQA

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Joint Infection							**Page 70**
JOINT25	QAM244227_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Legionella spp.							**Page 48**
LPDNA25	QAB044122_1	1	10	Q1	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Malaria							**Page 71**
MALARIA25	QAP214218_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Pilot Study
MALDI-TOF							**Page 58**
MALDI25	QAB124155_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Measles / Mumps							**Page 35**
MM25	QAV144171_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
MERS coronavirus (MERS-CoV)							**Page 36**
MERS25	QAV154181_1	1	8	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)							**Page 49**
MRSADNA25	QAB064124_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) – Typing							**Page 48**
MRSATP25	QAB074128_1	1	8	Q3	Ambient	Typing	Bacterial EQA
***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB)**							**Page 49**
MTBDNA25	QAB014129_1 QAB014129_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Drug Resistance**							**Page 50**
MTBDR25	QAB194209_1	1	8	Q3	Ambient	Typing	Bacterial EQA
Mycoplasma genitalium							**Page 50**
MG25	QAB184205_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Mycoplasma pneumoniae							**Page 51**
MP25	QAB174192_1	1	5	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA

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Norovirus (NV)							**Page 36**
NVRNA25	QAV084139_1 QAV084139_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Parainfluenza virus (PIV)							**Page 37**
PINFRNA25	QAV064136_1	1	10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Parasitic Gastroenteritis							**Page 58**
GastroP25	QAP124154_1 QAP124154_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Parechovirus (HPeV)							**Page 37**
PeVRNA25	QAV114145_1 QAV114145_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
***Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (PCP)**							**Page 54**
PCPDNA25	QAF114144_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Fungal EQA
Poxviruses							**Page 72**
POX25	QAV224225_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Pilot Study
Respiratory I							**Page 59**
RESPI25	QAV164188_1 QAV164188_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Respiratory I Plus							**Page 59**
RESPIplus25	QAM204216_1A QAM204216_1B	1 1	10 10	Q2 Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Respiratory II							**Page 60**
RESPII25	QAV164189_1 QAV164189_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Respiratory III							**Page 60**
RESPIII25	QAM174193_1 QAM174193_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)							**Page 38**
RSV25	QAV054142_1 QAV054142_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA

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Rhinovirus (RV)							**Page 38**
RVRNA25	QAV064143_1	1	10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
SARS-CoV-2							**Page 39**
SCV2_25	QAV204215_1A QAV204215_1B QAV204215_1C QAV204215_1D	1 1 1 1	5 5 5 5	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Sepsis							**Page 61**
SEPSIS25	QAB164178_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Sexually Transmitted Infections I							**Page 61**
STI_I25	QAB154177_1 QAB154177_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Sexually Transmitted Infections II							**Page 62**
STI_II25	QAM174201_1 QAM174201_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Syphilis							**Page 51**
SYPH25	QAB154180_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Bacterial EQA
Torque teno virus (TTV)							**Page 39**
TTV25	QAV184203_1	1	6	Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Toxoplasma gondii							**Page 55**
TGDNA25	QAP044123_1 QAP044123_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Parasitic EQA
Transplantation (viral)							**Page 62**
TRANS25	QAM174198_1	1	10	Q2	Dry-ice	Qualitative & Quantitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Trichomonas vaginalis							**Page 55**
TV25	QAP184202_1	1	8	Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Parasitic EQA
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE)							**Page 52**
VRE25	QAB134163_1	1	10	Q3	Dry-ice	Typing	Bacterial EQA

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Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV)							**Page 40**
VZVDNA25	QAV034103_1 QAV034103_2	1 2	10 5	Q3 Q1, Q3	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Viral Gastroenteritis							**Page 63**
GastroV25	QAV124152_1 QAV124152_2	1 2	10 5	Q4 Q2, Q4	Dry-ice	Qualitative	Multi-Pathogen / Syndromic EQA
Viral Metagenomics NGS							**Page 72**
NGSmeta_25	QAV204213_1	1	5	Q3	Dry-ice	Sequencing	Pilot Study
West Nile virus (WNV)							**Page 40**
WNVRNA25	QAV104141_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Yellow Fever Virus							**Page 41**
YFV25	QAV194207_1	1	8	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA
Zika Virus							**Page 41**
ZIKA25	QAV164186_1	1	10	Q3	Ambient	Qualitative	Viral EQA

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