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## FIELD NOTICE

### Changes to UK NEQAS Specimen Vials

Dear colleagues,

We are making changes to the specimen vials for many of the UK NEQAS Haematology programmes from May/June 2022.

- 1) 5ml plastic vials will have a second, blank patient label underneath the UK NEQAS label. This will be a permanent change affecting the **Full Blood Count (FB)**, **Reticulocyte Count (RE)**, **Liquid Newborn (LN)**, **Plasma Viscosity (PV)** and **Blood Component Quality Monitoring (CM)** programmes.
- 2) 3ml glass vials will be substituted with 2ml plastic vials with different coloured caps depending on the programme. This change will be piloted until August 2022. This change affects **Haemoglobin Only (HB)**, **Abnormal Haemoglobins (AH)** and **G6PD (G6)** programmes.

#### Summary of Changes:

Programmes	Current Vial	New Vial
FB, RE, LN, PV & CM	5ml Plastic Vial with UK NEQAS label only.	5ml Plastic Vial with blank patient label and UK NEQAS label.
HB	3ml Glass Vial	2ml Plastic vial with <b>White</b> lid
AH	3ml Glass Vial	2ml Plastic vial with <b>Blue</b> lid
G6	3ml Glass Vial	2ml Plastic vial with <b>Green</b> lid

If you have any queries or questions, please contact the UK NEQAS Haematology team via email ([haem@ukneqas.org.uk](mailto:haem@ukneqas.org.uk)).

With best regards,

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