

Participant information sheet – online survey

Malaria microscopy: Describing the pattern of laboratory external quality assessment performance and educational practices.

(MSc Project title)

Introduction

We would like to invite your laboratory to take part in a research study. Joining this study is **voluntary**. This information sheet provides additional information to clarify this study's purpose, design and your involvement.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study is part of the final project required for the completion of a MSc degree. This is a MSc in Public Health given by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London, UK).

Why have I been asked to take part?

As a participant of the UK NEQAS Haematology programmes, registered in the Blood Films for Parasitology programme, your participation is valuable for the collection of data through an online survey, regarding malaria microscopy skills and respective laboratory performance and educational practices. Other data from UK and non-UK participants will be used in this research to provide an overview of laboratory performance according to several variables (location, country income level, type of laboratory, malaria endemicity).

Do I have to take part?

No. This additional survey is **voluntary** and there is no impact to your laboratory if you do not participate. Data collected will not affect your UK NEQAS performance reports.

What will I have to do?

To be involved in this study you only need to complete the online survey and confirm consent of the data you have shared.

What if something is wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the principal researcher (Joana Loureiro) by email. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do so by contacting UK NEQAS Haematology.

- Joana Loureiro: j.loureiro@nhs.net
- UK NEQAS Haematology: haem@ukneqas.org.uk; +44 1923 587111

What will happen to the information collected about my laboratory?

All the information we collect during the course of this study will be kept confidential. As a participant in the UK NEQAS Haematology programmes, data collected is linked to a 5-digit reference number (PRN) which ensures confidentiality.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this study will be subject to review by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for the assessment of the project report, that will be developed by the student to obtain a MSc degree. The study results may be published in a scientific journal so other healthcare professionals may learn from them. Confidentiality will be maintained at all stages, and laboratory identifiable information will not be included in the study report.

Who is organizing and funding this study?

The West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospital (NHS trust), operating UK NEQAS Haematology, is the sponsor of this study's research, and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage, and analysis of your data.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect study participant's interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable ethical opinion by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine MSc Research Ethics Committee (Reference: 30145).

How have patients and the public been involved in this study?

Only laboratory External Quality Assessment (EQA) data has been collected and patients have not been involved in this study. Laboratory performance was assessed by retrospective analysis of data, already collected as part of the UK NEQAS Haematology programmes (Blood Film for Parasitology programme only).