

Covid-19 Risk Assessment for UK NEQAS Haematology and Blood Transfusion EQA samples

This assessment is supplementary to the COSHH paperwork that accompanies the EQA samples.

EQA Assay Material

UK NEQAS Haematology and Blood Transfusion EQA samples are prepared from whole blood, plasma and freeze-dried samples prepared from NHSBT donor blood or purchased commercially. The risk of Covid-19 infection from the EQA material is equivalent to supplies of blood for transfusion, commercial reagents, internal quality controls or calibration materials.

The only samples prepared from patients' clinical specimens are the blood films and dried blood specimens and we are only using library cases prepared before the Covid-19 outbreak.

EQA Specimens and Paperwork Preparation

Survey samples and paperwork are prepared and bottled in laboratory facilities that are used for EQA preparation purposes only. Patients' clinical samples are not received, stored or processed in the same facilities.

The laboratory is frequently disinfected and staff preparing the materials and packages observe good laboratory practice during the preparation; hand washing prior to starting work and use of PPE.

Receipt of EQA Packages and Specimens

Participants should observe their standard precautions when receiving the packages as they are sent through the Royal Mail or courier delivery services and UK NEQAS Haematology and Blood Transfusion are not responsible for the handling of the packages in transit.

EQA samples should be handled and disposed of with the same safety precautions as patient samples. With the exception of blood films and dried blood spots, the EQA specimens may be washed/wiped down in the same way as clinical samples.

If you have any queries

Please contact UK NEQAS Haematology and Transfusion by email (haem@uknegas.org.uk or btlp@uknegas.org.uk).