Acceptance of a result of UI for antibody identification

This process should only be used where antibodies of likely clinical significance cannot be fully elucidated or excluded. N.B. UK NEQAS (BTLP) samples do not contain more than two specificities, so if you have positively identified two specificities please do not make an UI submission.

The following rules will apply:

a. the following will incur penalties
   - Misinterpretations contributed to by false negative or false positive reactions.
   - If a specificity (actually present) is not entered as positively identified and we feel that it can be identified based on two positive and two negative reactions (as stated in BCSH guidelines) by whatever method is appropriate (e.g. IAT, OR enzymes in the case of Rh). This will be based on a maximum of 2 antibodies being present. (N.B: Serological reactions obtained with the antibody screening cells should be included in the interpretation).
   - If a specificity not actually present is entered as positively identified.
   - If a specificity is entered as ‘cannot be excluded’, but we feel that it can be excluded, either because of one or more negative reactions with an appropriate antigen positive cell, or because of one or more negative reactions by a particular method. For example, stating that an Rh antibody cannot be excluded from an antibody mixture in the presence of a negative result with an enzyme treated cell carrying the corresponding antigen would incur a penalty.
   - If a specificity is entered as ‘cannot be excluded’, but the patient phenotype provided shows that the patient is positive for the corresponding antigen.
   - If a clinically significant antibody is not identified in the presence of an enzyme non-specific antibody.

b. the following will not incur penalties
   - Being unable to exclude a specificity in line with BCSH guidelines, e.g. having no homozygous cell available to exclude anti-Jk^a.
   - Including a specificity (if actually present) even if the inclusion does not comply with BCSH guidelines (e.g. only one r’r cell).
   - If an antibody (actually present) is reacting with homozygous but not with heterozygous cells, and is recorded as ‘cannot be excluded’ rather than as ‘positively identified’. However, this would only apply if our in-house testing also found non-reactivity with heterozygous cells by the same technique; otherwise, this would be classed as a false negative result.

c. the following documentation is required for a UI submission to be considered
   - The UI box should be marked in addition to any boxes for antibodies that you can confidently identify.
   - The UI submission must include details of antibodies that cannot be positively identified, but cannot be excluded, and your explanation of why identification cannot be confirmed.
   - Copies of all panel sheets showing the reactions recorded, (including those used for antibody screening) must be returned with your exercise result sheet and marked with your PRN.

If supporting paperwork is not submitted, antibodies recorded as positively identified will be considered as your result for performance monitoring purposes.