

UK NEQAS Haematology
SURVEY 1702FB: BLOOD COUNT: 6 February 2017
CLOSING DATE: 5pm; 14 February 2017

1.0 Distribution Package

Distribution 17B includes the following surveys:

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| 1. Full Blood Count | 5. Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Malaria |
| 2. Automated Differential Leucocyte Count | 6. Abnormal Haemoglobins |
| 3. Blood Films for Morphology | |
| 4. Blood Films for Parasite identification | |

A full package comprises a plastic postal bag, containing documentation and a moulded plastic specimen carrier comprising a transparent side holding vials of survey material and/or a slide carrier and an absorbent side that will absorb up to 50ml of liquid, i.e. the entire contents of the package, in the event of a breakage.

Specimens are only included for the tests for which you are registered.

Repeat specimens may be requested if your specimens are received damaged.

Please contact the Scheme by telephone or email using the contact details in the header.

2.0 Information required for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

This information is printed on a separate information sheet and should be reviewed by your COSHH assessor for consideration of any changes necessary to your local work practices.

3.0 Use of packaged material

This material is for use in External Quality Assessment Surveys to assess laboratory performance.

4.0 Blood Count Survey 1702FB

This survey contains partially fixed human whole blood specimens **1702FB1** and **1702FB2**.

Specimen handling and disposal

- On receipt, specimens should be stored at 2 - 8°C until tested
- Allow the material to equilibrate to room temperature for 10 minutes on a roller or similar mixer before testing.
- **Sysmex SE, XE, XN and XT instruments:** FB specimens should be analysed in the CBC mode NOT the QC mode. **XE** and **XN** users are requested to submit the optical platelet count in comments box in addition to the impedance count. Please note that the optical platelet count will not be performance assessed.
- **Siemens ADVIA 120 and 2120 instruments:** report the Baso channel WBC and if there is a CE error flag against the haemoglobin result, report the Cellular Hb, Cellular MCH and Cellular MCHC.
- **Beckman Coulter Uni Cel DxH 800 instruments:** report the uncorrected WBC (UWBC).
- **Cell Dyn 3200 & Ruby instruments:** report WBC from NOC mode.
- The material should be handled and discarded as patient material.

The specimens for Blood Count are stabilised blood and as such do not react in the same way as fresh EDTA bloods. You may experience 'caution flags' and 'abnormal' scatter plots. Although this material contains human leucocytes it is not designed to give a differential leucocyte count.

5.0 Return of results

If you find the specimen quality unsatisfactory, tick the 'unsatisfactory' box and note the details in the Comment box.

Return your results on line at www.ukneqash.org/sampleentry or by fax to **+44 (0)1923 217879** using a header sheet giving your PRN and the number of sheets sent.

6.0 Next Distribution:-The next Full Blood Count survey (1703FB) is scheduled for 6 March 2017.