

UK NEQAS Haematology
SURVEY 1703RE: RETICULOCYTE COUNT: 8 May 2017
CLOSING DATE: 5pm; 16 May 2017

1.0 Distribution Package

Distribution 17E includes the following surveys:

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Full Blood Count | 5. Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Malaria |
| 2. Reticulocyte Count | 6. Red Cell Enzyme (G-6-PD) |
| 3. Blood Films for Morphology | |
| 4. Blood Films for Parasites | |

A full package comprises a plastic postal bag, containing documentation and a moulded plastic specimen carrier. The specimen carrier consists of :-

A transparent side holding glass vials of survey material and/ or a plastic box with a hazard-warning label holding blood films 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 of all the vials.

Note: Specimens are only included for the tests for which you are registered. Repeat specimens may be requested by telephone: +44 (0)1923 217878.

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 Reticulocyte Survey 1703RE

This survey contains two preserved human whole blood specimens, **1703RE1** and **1703RE2**, which are suitable for both manual and automated methods. An alternative survey material is supplied for Coulter GenS and LH750 instruments. Please see specific instrument group instructions below, where applicable.

Users of Coulter GenS and LH series

Users of Coulter GenS and LH series instruments will receive specimens **1703REX1** and **1703REX2** in place of **1703RE1** and **1703RE2**, these specimens are for analysis by your automated methods.

Note: If you are registered for microscopic reticulocyte counts, you will also receive **1703RE1** and **1703RE2** for microscopic counts only.

Users of Sysmex XE, XN, XS and XT instruments

Specimen **1703RE1** should be analysed in the e-check mode, i.e. as a control material and **1703RE2** should be analysed in the normal analysis mode.

Specimen handling and disposal

- On receipt, specimens should be stored at 2 - 8°C until tested
- Allow the specimens to equilibrate to room temperature for 15 minutes before testing.
- Specimens should be mixed gently by holding horizontally between the palms of the hands and rolling the vial back and forth rapidly for 30 seconds before gently inverting the vial 10 times. Continue mixing until the cells are completely and uniformly suspended. After mixing allow the vial to rest undisturbed for approximately 15 seconds to allow small bubbles to disperse. Gently invert the vial 10 times immediately before sampling. DO NOT USE A MECHANICAL MIXER OR SHAKE THE VIAL
- The material should be handled and discarded as potentially infectious patient material

5.0 Return of results

For participants registered for web entry:- If you experience problems with web entry please contact the Scheme office for advice.

For participants returning results by fax:- Please enter your figures clearly, one to a box, using black ink. It is unnecessary to also return the results sheets by post.

For participants returning results by post:- The address for returning by post (First Class Mail) is given on the results sheet.

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

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

To calculate the absolute Reticulocyte Count ($\times 10^9/L$) the red cell count should be obtained from the haematology analyser in use in your laboratory

Please do not advise us of a change of instrument/method on the results sheet or the web site.

6.0 Next Distribution

The next Reticulocyte Count survey (1704RE) is scheduled for 3 July 2017.