

UK NEQAS Haematology
SURVEY 2312FB: BLOOD COUNT
DISTRIBUTION DATE: 4th December 2023
CLOSING DATE: 23:59 (GMT); 12th December 2023

1.0 Distribution Package

Distribution 23L includes the following surveys:

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| 1. Full Blood Count | 4. Abnormal Haemoglobins, Hb A2, Hb F & Hb S |
| 2. Automated Differential Leucocyte Count | 5. Blood Films for Morphology |
| 3. Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate | 6. Manual Differential Leucocyte Count |

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. If you do not receive the expected combination of specimens, notify us immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

Repeat specimens may be requested by Email: haem@ukneqas.org.uk or Tel: +44 (0)1923 587111

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 2312FB

This survey contains partially fixed human whole blood specimens **2312FB1** and **2312FB2**.

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.
- **Beckman Coulter DxH 600, 800 and 900 instruments:** report the uncorrected WBC (UWBC).
- **Cell Dyn Ruby instruments:** report WBC from the NOC mode.
- **HORIBA Yumizen H500 instruments:**
 - v2.1: analyse the specimens in the patient mode as instructed by the manufacturer.
 - Upwards of v2.1: analyse the specimens in the EQC control mode as instructed by the manufacturer. *
- **HORIBA Yumizen H550 instruments:**
 - v3 and below: analyse the specimens in the QC Control mode as instructed by the manufacturer. *
 - Upwards of v3: analyse the specimens in the EQC control mode as instructed by the manufacturer. *
- **HORIBA Yumizen H1500/2500 instruments:** Do not change the mode. Analyse the specimens selecting the Sample type NEQAS and the Test DIF, as instructed by the manufacturer. *
- **Siemens ADVIA 120, 2120 & 2120i 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.
- **Siemens ADVIA 2120 & 2120i instruments:** disable the nRBC method prior to analysing the UK NEQAS FBC specimens as instructed by the manufacturer. *
- **Sight Diagnostics OLO E-1 instruments:** analyse the specimens in the proficiency testing (PT) mode as instructed by the manufacturer.
- **Sysmex XE and XN instruments:** analyse the specimens in the CBC mode NOT the QC mode. **XE** and **XN** users are requested to submit the optical platelet count in the comments box in addition to the impedance count. Please note that the optical platelet count will not be performance assessed.
- **All other instrument users:** analyse the specimens using the normal patient 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.

* The manufacturer's document(s) can be downloaded from the UK NEQAS website <https://www.ukneqash.org/documents.php>

5.0 Return of results

- Return your results online at www.ukneqash.org/sampleentry or by email to haem@ukneqas.org.uk providing your PRN.
- If you find the specimen quality unsatisfactory, tick the 'unsatisfactory' box and note the details in the Comment box.

6.0 Next Distribution:

The next Full Blood Count survey (2401FB) is scheduled for 8th of January 2024.