

**UK NEQAS Haematology**  
**SURVEY 2306RE: RETICULOCYTE COUNT**  
**DISTRIBUTION DATE: 6th November 2023**  
**CLOSING DATE: 23:59 (GMT); 14th November 2023**

### 1.0 Distribution Package

Distribution 23K includes the following surveys:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Full Blood Count           | 4. Blood Films for Parasite identification |
| 2. Reticulocyte Count         | 5. Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Malaria      |
| 3. Blood Films for Morphology | 6. Red Cell Enzymes (G6PD)                 |

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](mailto: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 Reticulocyte Survey 2306RE

This survey contains two stabilised human whole blood specimens, **2306RE1** and **2306RE2**. Please see specific instrument group instructions below, where applicable.

#### 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 mixing.
- **Mix manually** by rolling the vial backwards and forwards between the hands occasionally inverting the vial. Do not shake. Continue mixing for 2 – 3 minutes until all red cells are uniformly suspended. Do not use a roller or other mechanical mixer.
- **HORIBA Yumizen 2500**: analyse the specimens in the Patient mode selecting the Sample type NEQAS and the Test RET as instructed by the manufacturer.  
Manufacturer's instructions can be downloaded by entering the following into the address bar of your internet browser; <https://www.ukneqash.org/documents.php>
- **Mindray BC 6 & 7 Series**: Specimens **2306RE1** and **2306RE2** should be analysed in the normal patient mode.
- **Sysmex XE, XN and XS**: Specimens **2306RE1** and **2306RE2** should be analysed in the normal patient mode.
- **All other instrument**: analyse the specimens using the normal patient mode.
- The material should be handled and discarded as patient material.

### 5.0 Return of results

Return your results online at [www.ukneqash.org/sampleentry](https://www.ukneqash.org/sampleentry) or by email to [haem@ukneqas.org.uk](mailto: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 Reticulocyte Count survey (2401RE) is scheduled for 8th of January 2024.