

UK NEQAS Haematology

SURVEY 2304ES: ESR

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 ESR Survey 2304ES

This survey contains the following whole blood specimens **2304ES1** and **2304ES2**.

A separate set of specimens is supplied for each instrument registered.

NOTE: This material is not suitable for Alifax instruments. Material for the Alifax Survey (**2304ESX**) is distributed separately.

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 20 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.
- Invert the vial gently 10 times immediately before testing.
- Analyse the specimens as instructed by the instrument/equipment manufacturer.
 - For automated methods, do not remove the diluents from the test reservoirs.
 - For manual methods, if patients' specimens are normally diluted, then dilute the specimens in the same way.
 - For Ves-Matic Instruments:
 - Remove the stopper from a VacuTec tube, do not discard the diluent from the tube.
 - Using a transfer pipette, fill the tube to the fill line with the well mixed specimen.
 - Replace the stopper and invert the tube 20 times.
 - Analyse the specimen using the "Westergren 1hr." Setting
 - For Ves-Matic-Cube Instruments:
 - Mix the UK NEQAS red-capped tube manually by rolling it between the hands for 2 - 3mins and inverting gently a few times.
 - Decant 4ml into an EDTA tube (fill to black 4ml mark on tube).
 - Replace the stopper and mix manually for 2 - 3 mins.

It is important to have the same number of labels on the EQA tube as on the patient sample tubes.

 - Analyse the specimen
- The material should be handled and discarded as patient material

5.0 Return of results:-

- Return your results on line 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.

7.0 Next Distribution:-

The next ESR survey (2401ES) is scheduled for 4th of March 2024.