

UK NEQAS Haematology
ESR SURVEY: 2304ESX Module
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)

The following information is specific for this survey material and should be reviewed by your COSHH assessor for consideration of any changes necessary to your local rules.

Human blood components were not used in the manufacture of this material. However, this material does contain components from non-human sources and may transmit infectious disease. When handling or disposing of this material, follow your laboratory procedures for handling biological material.

3.0 Use of packaged material

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

4.0 ESR Survey for Alifax 2304ESX

This survey contains the following specimens **2304ESX1, 2304ESX2 and 2304ESX3**. These specimens are latex suspensions and should be handled as QC material.

Note: Ensure that you have the correct software version for analysis of EQA material (6.01A or higher for TEST1, MicroTEST1 and ROLLER 20, version 1.00A or higher for ROLLER 10, version 4.03A or higher for ROLLER 10-PN, version 1.00.08 for JO-PLUS).

Specimen handling and disposal

- On receipt, specimens should be stored in the dark at 4 - 25°C until tested.
- Allow the material 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. Mix vigorously but do not shake. Continue mixing until the latex particles are completely suspended. Do not use a roller or other mechanical mixer.
- The material should be handled and discarded as patient material

Analysis of material

- Analyse the specimens in QC mode as instructed by the instrument/equipment manufacturer, including wash tubes.
 - Distilled water in position 1
 - 2304ESX1 in position 2
 - 2304ESX2 in position 3
 - 2304ESX3 in position 4
 - Distilled water in position 5
 - Distilled water in position 6
- This material is NOT suitable for manual methods or for instruments other than Alifax. If you require material for non-Alifax instruments contact UK NEQAS Haematology on 01923 587 111.

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.

8.0 Next Distribution:-

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