

Scheme News and Updates

UK NEQAS

Immunocytochemistry & In-Situ Hybridisation

1. ISO 17043 Accreditation update

Following a surveillance visit by UKAS in September 2016, UK NEQAS ICC & ISH has maintained its accreditation status to ISO 17043. The list of accredited modules can be found on the UKAS Accredited PT Providers link: Click on the image on the left or the following link: www.ukas.com/list-all-organisations/?org_type=13&org_cat&cpage=3



The assessment also included an extension to scope for the addition of the ALK module.

2. ALK NSCLC IHC Module is now Live

The ALK for NSCLC module was approved by the Techniques in Cellular Pathology Steering Committee to be removed from Pilot to a Live module as from April 2016, Run 114. All UK Clinical laboratories who subscribe to this module are now Poor Performance Monitored. Similarly to the other biomarker modules, due to the direct impact that the results have on patient management, more stringent performance monitoring mechanisms are employed: See section 2.8 of the Participants Manual (www.ukneqasiccish.org/participant-manuals). This module has now formally been included in our ISO 17043 repertoire.

3. Breast HER2 ISH Technical Module is now Live

Laboratories who take part in the Breast Her2 ISH module (Interpretive) must also submit their slide for the ISH Technical module. Both parts of the module (Interpretive and Technical) will be subject to Poor Performance Monitoring. The scheme will contact participants with Poor Performance details. As from Run 117 we will insist that laboratories take an image of their ISH section before sending their slide back for technical assessment. We are in the process of setting up a system to receive your images routinely with every Run as reference when assessing the ISH technical slides. Until this is complete, we would like you to keep an image which we may ask you to send to us if there are any concerns with the staining at assessment. Further guidance on this will be provided to all laboratories taking part in the Breast ISH module.

4. Antibodies not tested by UK NEQAS ICC & ISH

We appreciate that as many labs are migrating to UKAS ISO: 15189 the issue of not having all routinely used markers requested by UK NEQAS ICC & ISH has become a problem. UKAS admit that they may have over-interpreted the standard which covers this, and have given an alternative approach to EQA:

5.6.3.2 Alternative approaches

Whenever an interlaboratory comparison is not available, the laboratory shall develop other approaches and provide objective evidence for determining the acceptability of examination results.

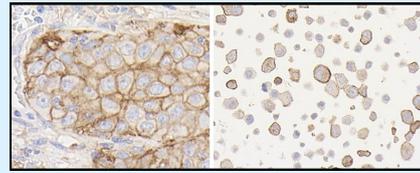
Whenever possible, this mechanism shall utilize appropriate materials.

NOTE Examples of such materials may include:

- certified reference materials;
- samples previously examined;
- material from cell or tissue repositories;
- exchange of samples with other laboratories;
- control materials that are tested daily in interlaboratory comparison programmes.

Refer also to Royal College of Pathologists Guidelines : ISO 15189: 2012- An approach to the assessment of uncertainty of measurement for cellular pathology laboratories, May 2015 for guidance on measurement of uncertainty in cellular pathology examinations.

5. PD-L1 NSCLC IHC Module



Phase 1 of the pre-pilot PD-L1 NSCLC IHC module is now underway. All participants that have shown an interest, but not included in the first round, will be contacted and sent samples to participate in Phase 2 of the pilot assessment in the New Year.

6. Looking for an IHC Best Method?

Don't forget we have a whole database of methods to help you get started: www.ukneqasiccish.org/best-methods

1	* Area of Pathology	--Please Select--
2	* Primary Antibody	--Please Select--
3	* Antibody Supplier	--Please Select--
4	* Automation Instrument	--Please Select--
5	* Detection Kd or 2nd Layer	--Please Select--

The database is constantly being updated, with methods now included up to the Run 115 data. A Lung option has also been added to include the ALK for NSCLC protocols.

7. Slides sent for feedback or opinion outside of EQA

The scheme is proposing to streamline the slide opinion referral process when labs send in slides for opinion following local testing and/or evaluation. Please send requests via E-mail to: info@ukneqasiccish.org The slides will initially be logged and reviewed for opinion only, and when necessary, put through with the formal assessment to provide feedback and a summary report from our team of assessors.

8. Updated Reassessment Form: NEQAS or In-House?

Any participants requesting a reassessment must please use the new reassessment form. This is found on the website <http://www.ukneqasiccish.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NEQ-MF17-Request-for-Reassessment-of-Slides-v5.pdf>

Please be sure to state clearly whether it is the NEQAS tissue or the In-House sample you wish to be reassessed and give the sample reference; e.g. C, D, T, V. Recently we have noticed that some labs have sent in slides without stating which sections they would like reassessed: NEQAS/In-House/Both

9. New Subscription Forms and Participant Manual

The 2017/2018 versions will be sent out early next year.

Scheme Christmas Opening Times

The UK NEQAS ICC & ISH office is officially closed between 23rd December until January 3rd 2017. However, there will be limited staff available during this period for any urgent matters. **UK NEQAS ICC & ISH would like to wish all our Participants a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

