

Date: 23 February 2017

Dear UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Participant,

We are writing to update you on our activities and new price structure for 2017/2018.

**Proposed Dates For UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Runs For EQA Year: 2017 – 2018**

<u>RUN</u>	<u>DISPATCH DATE</u>	<u>RETURN DATE</u>	<u>ASSESSMENTS DATE</u>
118/47	15 <sup>th</sup> May	16 <sup>th</sup> June	03 <sup>rd</sup> Jul – 28 <sup>st</sup> July
119/48	14 <sup>th</sup> August	15 <sup>th</sup> September	02 <sup>nd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> October
120/49	06 <sup>th</sup> November	08 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
121/50	05 <sup>th</sup> February	09 <sup>th</sup> March	26 <sup>st</sup> March - 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018

**These dates are subject to change; an email will be sent to all labs prior to the dispatch of slides.**

**Subscription Updates**

The UK NEQAS ICC & ISH scheme, whilst fulfilling the “not for profit” ethos of UK NEQAS, is continually having to manage the increasing cost of being based in London, increase in sample sourcing, preparation and testing costs.

We have therefore made some small price changes to some modules, calculated on a ‘per module basis’ to make sure that each module can operate as a standalone module without subsidy from other modules.

As usual we have tried to minimise these rises, with some modules not having any price increase, but other modules having to have an increase in subscription fees of between 5-15%.

**Our address:**

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH, Finsbury Business Centre, 40 Bowling Green Lane, Room 127,  
London, EC1R 0NE, UK. Tel.: **(+44) (0) 207 415 7065**

We are still finding that some centres are sending their slides to our old address.

All participants should have received pre-printed address labels with their Run assessment slides. Templates are also available on the website: [www.ukneqasiccish.org/downloads/](http://www.ukneqasiccish.org/downloads/)

**ISO 17043 Accreditation**

Following the visit by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) for initial accreditation under ISO/IEC 17043:2010 in February this year, and a subsequent follow up with an extension of scope visit in September 2016, the UK NEQAS ICC & ISH scheme is now ISO 17043 accredited for all of its modules. Please see the Participants Manual for an up to date list of our accredited modules.

**Forthcoming Modules**

The scheme is currently planning and preparing the introduction of a PD-L1 module. A pre-pilot assessment for PD-L1 in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers (NSCLCs) is currently underway. On completion of the pre-pilot assessment, notifications will be sent out to invite laboratories to join the PD-L1 module for NSLC.

### **Slides**

Since the advent of the single slide EQA we have been trialling several types of slides from several companies. Currently we are using the HistoBond + Control slide from CellPath and the Tomo slides from Matsunami Glass. We will update participants as and when we use the various slides, and/or move fully or partially to one particular type.

### **Reassessments**

Since the introduction of the single slide assessments, we have noticed that there have been several slides returned to us where the actual reassessment form, or accompanying comments, are ambiguous, by not clearly indicating which sample: NEQAS or In-House is being submitted for reassessment.

In December 2016 we sent out an Update with a link to the revised Reassessment form:

<http://www.ukneqasiccish.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NEQ-MF17-Request-for-Reassessment-of-Slides-v5.pdf>

Any participants requesting a reassessment must please use the new reassessment form, and destroy any previous forms that you may have printed off.

Please be sure to state clearly on these forms whether it is the NEQAS tissue or the In-House control sample, or Both, that you wish to be reassessed, and give the sample reference; e.g. C, S, T, V in the spaces provided. Any forms where the sample for reassessment is not clear, may be returned or result in a section being incorrectly reassessed.

### **Surveys**

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH will continue to send surveys throughout the year in order to gain feedback and data on various aspects of its activities; e.g. antibody repertoire, user survey and module specific surveys.

### **Participants Meeting 2016 and New Subscription Forms 2017/2018**

As you know for last year's meeting we indicated that we would be charging participants for attending. This will be £50 + VAT per attendee. We have therefore included a line on the forms for you to tick for either one or two attendees which will be added to your module subscriptions. Please ensure that you do this where appropriate. This includes several registrants who were unable to attend but were notified that they would still be invoiced.

If you have any queries or wish to check whether you are liable for this then please contact either Lin Rhodes [a.rhodes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.rhodes@ucl.ac.uk) or Neil Bilbe [n.bilbe@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.bilbe@ucl.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Director UK NEQAS ICC & ISH