

Microbiology (Bacteriology) External Quality Assessment Program (EQA)

Background

With the continuous spread of multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens, clinical microbiology plays a crucial role in fighting life threatening infections and containing disease outbreaks.

As part of a comprehensive antimicrobial stewardship strategy, accurate pathogen identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) are essential for optimizing antibiotic use and containing disease outbreaks.



Microbiology (Bacteriology) Identification and AST

- Laboratories are required to re-isolate and report significant pathogens from the samples, ensuring accurate detection and identification.
- After re-isolation of the pathogens in the laboratories, AST is to be performed by either CLSI or EUCAST guidelines, and results can be reported conveniently.



About Us

NHS-NEQAS is an External Quality Assessment Program (ISO 17043 accredited) to ensure quality testing in Medical laboratories. Participating in EQA gives laboratories added confidence in reporting their patient test results as well as fulfil any regulatory requirements.

External Quality Assessment Program

- Identification of bacteria from sample (Genus and Species)
- Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (according to CLSI or EUCAST guidelines)

- In the NHS-NEQAS Bacteriology EQA program, we provide simulated clinical information about sample sources to assess laboratory capabilities in pathogen identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)
- The program provides an objective means for laboratories to assess their performance, identify areas for improvement, and ensure compliance with international standards

PT Sample

NHS-NEQAS offers Bacteriology schemes with six surveys per year, providing rigorous quality assessment for participating laboratories. Each survey includes one carefully prepared sample sent every two months, presented on slant agar and containing either pure bacterial strains or mixed pathogens.

Benefits of NHS-NEQAS Microbiology EQA

- Samples, stability is ensured by storing and transporting samples on agar slants at 2-8°C, maintaining viability for up to two weeks
- Covers a wide range of important pathogenic bacteria encountered in clinical specimens
- Allows assessment of both identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing capabilities
- AST result reporting for multiple antimicrobial agents per survey sample

EQA Reports

Our EQA program provides detailed, actionable reports to help laboratories enhance their performance, key features include

- Comprehensive statistical analysis
- Secure PDF delivery via our online platform
- Performance comparison with peer laboratories

Reports are typically available within 1-2 weeks after the result submission deadline, ensuring timely feedback



R&D Labs, ASAB, NUST,
Islamabad.



051-90856109



order@nhs-neqas.com



www.nhs-neqas.com

