The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine
Scotland Audit Group

# Audit of EQA practice in Scotland

Over the last 10 years, many EQA schemes have moved away from paper, to electronic report formats. Previous laboratory mechanisms for signing-off, receipting, or actioning EQA reports may no longer be fit for purpose and laboratories have had to develop new mechanisms to handle the electronically provided data. Anecdotal information suggests that some laboratories manually transcribe data from electronic reports in to local databases/reports. This represents duplication of effort, takes up precious laboratory time and may lead to errors.

The aim of this audit is to gain a baseline understanding of:

- Which schemes are used in NHS Scotland Clinical Biochemistry laboratories.
- What procedures are in place in the laboratory for handling returned results.

We would like to receive as many views as possible from all members of staff involved in EQA data handling. Please distribute this questionnaire to all relevant staff in all sections/hospitals.

Please return completed questionnaires (electronic or paper copies) by 2nd September 2019 to either

Neil Syme, Clinical Scientist neil.syme@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Charlotte Syme, Clinical Scientist charlotte.syme@nhs.net

Clinical Biochemistry
Macewen Building
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
G4 0SF

If you have any queries, please use the contact details above, or telephone 0141 211 4235.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Health Board:** | |
| **Hospital:** | |
| **Department:** | |
| **Section (if applicable):** | |
| **Contact email*:** | |

** Only for follow up questions. All data will be anonymous.*

**Section 1 – Laboratory EQA data management**

1. In which EQA scheme(s) do you participate, please check all that apply.

| | |
|---|---|
| UK NEQAS (Birmingham Quality) | |
| UK NEQAS (Peptide Hormones) | |
| UK NEQAS (Cardiac Markers) | |
| UK NEQAS (Guildford Peptides) | |
| UK NEQAS (IMMQAS) | |
| WEQAS | |
| RIQAS | |
| Sample exchange (please list analytes) | |

| |
|---|
| Other (please list) |

2. Do you have an EQA officer? YES / NO

   a. If so, how many? _____
   b. What grade(s) of staff (MLA, BMS, Clinical Scientist)?

3. How are EQA duties divided in your laboratory, e.g. department wide, laboratory section, methodology etc.

4. Do you register EQA samples in your LIMS? YES / NO

5. Do you use NPEx to report EQA results? YES / NO

   a. If not, do you plan to in the future? YES / NO
   b. If yes, how have you progressed, have there been any challenges?

**Section 2 – EQA performance review**

6. By what mechanism is EQA performance monitored and reviewed in your department? (e.g. departmental meetings, section meetings etc.)

7. How do you record/review returned reports to satisfy UKAS requirements?

8. How do you monitor TAT of report review?

9. What parameters do you use to assess suitability of EQA schemes?

10. Have you changed your practice in response to UKAS findings/recommendations? YES / NO

    If yes, please outline what/how.

**Section 3 – EQA data handling**

11. How do you monitor EQA performance, e.g. review of reports and scheme scores, calculation of Z scores, etc.

12. Do you transcribe data from the EQA reports for in-house reports? YES / NO

    If you transcribe data, what parameters do you utilise? (please specify for each scheme)

13. Do you perform any additional calculations on the transcribed data?

14. Would you prefer if EQA reports were available in a format from which data could be readily extracted?

15. Are EQA reports available to all staff in your laboratory? YES / NO

    If yes, please state how.