ESfEQA

European Society for
External Quality Assessment

Quality Assessment Schemes Program

2018

DAkkS
Deutsche
Akkreditierungsstelle
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ABOUT ESfEQA

ESfEQA EQA programs
The European Society for External Quality Assessment offers laboratories a wide range of EQA schemes organized in four areas: biochemistry, immunology, microbiology and hematology.
The ESfEQA programs for external quality assessment are intended for those who perform laboratory investigations either in their own laboratories or who are responsible for the quality in medical laboratories.

About ESfEQA samples and services
ESfEQA provides samples and services of high quality, reliability, convenience and flexibility.

Quality
The suitability of all samples for different technologies is achieved by multidisciplinary approaches to assess the reliability of control materials. All samples are designed for commutability.
ESfEQA is accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043: 2010.

Reliability
All fields of activity necessary to provide EQA surveys are streamlined for reliability: production and selection of sample materials, shipment logistics as well as handling electronic data and results.
Prior to their use in EQA schemes, samples are carefully selected, thus guaranteeing high and constant sample quality. For timely shipment, ESfEQA works hand in hand with reliable distributors. And finally, participants have full and reliable control over their data.

Convenience and flexibility
ESfEQA's proficiency testing software features an easy-access web interface which allows participants to submit their results and to retrieve the statistic reports that are displayed directly online. Requests for new method, instrument and reagent codes can be made online. The subscription to any ESfEQA program allows particpants to submit up to three results obtained from a single control set using different devices. Reports are provided online as pdf-files within 3 weeks after the deadline of result submission. Report files can be stored electronically, forwarded and printed.

Sample Ordering
ESfEQA offers EQA schemes worldwide and cooperates with reliable regional distributors. They are the direct business partners of participants, responsible for the ordering process, invoicing and local shipment of survey samples.
ESfEQA offers programs with 2, 4 or 12 surveys per year. In general, programs should be ordered for an entire calendar year. To ensure a cost-effective shipping process, survey samples are shipped semi-annually as long as this frequency is permitted by sample stability.

New Programs
Based on the feedback of our participants, ESfEQA extends the EQA portfolio continously. Please contact us for further suggestions on new programs.
Programs that have not been listed on the ESfEQA ISO 17043 accreditation certificate yet are marked in this catalogue as not accredited.

Survey Calendar
The dates for survey sample ordering, begin of result entry and deadline for result entry are published in this catalogue and on the ESfEQA website (www.esfeqa.eu).

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CONTENT

BIOCHEMISTRY

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BIOCHEMISTRY PROGRAMS

BLOOD GAS AND ELECTROLYTES BG

2 liquid buffered aqueous solution samples (minimum 2 mL).
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Calcium	pCO_2	Sodium
Chloride	pH	Urea
Glucose	pO_2	
Lactate	Potassium	

CARDIAC MARKER CM

Lyophilized samples (3 mL) of human sera with added analytes of human origin.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (CM12), two samples per survey in quarterly program (CM4).

Analytical parameters:

BNP	Homocysteine	NT-proBNP
CK-MB (mass)	Myoglobin	Troponin I
CK-MB (activity)		Troponin T

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY CC

Lyophilized samples (5 mL) of human sera with added enzymes and proteins of human origin.
2, 4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (CC12), two samples per survey in quarterly and semiannual program (CC4 and CC2).

Analytical parameters:

Albumin	Cholinesterase*	Magnesium
ALP Alkaline phosphatase	CK Creatinkinase	Phosphate
ALT/GPT	Creatinine	Potassium
Amylase	Gamma GT	Sodium
Amylase pancreatic*	Glucose	TIBC Total Iron Binding Capacity
AST/GOT	HDL Cholesterol	Total protein
Bilirubin, direct	Iron	Triglycerides
Bilirubin, total	Lactate	Urea
Calcium	LDH Lactate Dehydrogenase	Uric acid
Calcium (ionized)	LDL Cholesterol	
Chloride	Lipase	
Cholesterol	Lithium	

* These parameters are not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

COAGULATION COA

Lyophilized samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (COA12), two samples per survey in quarterly program (COA4).

Analytical parameters:

aPTT (activated Partial Thromboplastin Time)	D-Dimer	Protein C
Antithrombin III	Fibrinogen	Protein S
	PT (prothrombin time)	

DRUGS OF ABUSE DAT

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of filtered human urines with added drugs for qualitative analysis.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Acetylmorphine	Buprenorphine	Opiates
Amphetamines	Cannabinoids	Tricyclic Antidepressants
Barbiturates	Cocaine	
Benzodiazepines	Methadone	

ETHANOL ETH

2 liquid samples (minimum 0.5 mL) with added compounds.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Ethanol

FECAL OCCULT BLOOD FOB

2 liquid or lyophilized samples (minimum 0.5 mL). 2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Human hemoglobin in faeces

GLYCATED HEMOGLOBIN GHB

2 lyophilized samples (minimum 0.5 mL) of hemolysate of human blood.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

HbA1c	Hemoglobin

LIPIDS — LIP

2 lyophilized samples (3 mL) of human serum.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Apolipoprotein A1	HDL Cholesterol	Total Protein
Apolipoprotein B	LDL Cholesterol	Triglycerides
Cholesterol	Lp (a)	

QUALITATIVE URINE ANALYSIS (URINE STICK) — US

2 liquid samples (min. 10 mL) of urine preparation of human origin with added preservatives and stabilizers.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Bilirubin	Leucocytes	Total Protein
Glucose	Nitrite	Urobilinogen
Hemoglobin	pH	
Ketone bodies	Specific Gravity	

THERAPEUTIC DRUGS — TDM

2 liquid samples (minimum 2 mL) with added compounds.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Amikacin	Gentamicin	Procainamide
Carbamazepine	Lidocain	Salicylate
Chinidine	NAPA	Theophylline
Chloramphenicol	Paracetamol	Tobramycin
Digoxin	Phenobarbital	Valproic Acid
Disopyramide	Phenytoin	Vancomycin
Ethosuximide	Primidone	

URINE CHEMISTRY — UC

2 lyophilized samples (minimum 5 mL) of urine of human origin with added preservatives and stabilizers.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

Albumin / Microalbumin	Magnesium	Urea
Calcium	Phosphate	Uric acid
Chloride	Potassium	
Creatinine	Total protein	
Glucose	Sodium	

IMMUNOLOGY PROGRAMS

ALLERGOLOGY INHALE ALLERGENS AL1

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human serum.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters (below listed parameters are exemplary):

IgE total		e 84	hamster epithelia	w 1	common ragweed
d 1	derm. pteronyssinus	k 82	latex	w 2	western ragweed
d 2	derm. farinae	m 1	penicilinum chrysogenum	w 6	mugwort
d 70	acarus siro	m 3	aspergillus fumigatus	w 7	maguerite
e 1	cat epithelia	m 6	alternaria	w 9	buckhorn plantain
e 3	horse epithelia	t 2	alder	w 20	nettle
e 5	dog epithelia	t 3	birch	w 206	camomile
e 6	guinea pig epithelia	t 4	hazel		
e 82	rabbit epithelia	t 7	oak		

ALLERGOLOGY FOOD ALLERGENS & INSECT VENOM ALLERGENS AL2

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human serum.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters (below listed parameters are exemplary):

IgE total		f 25	tomato	f 78	casein
f 1	egg white	f 31	carrot	f 84	kiwi
f 2	milk	f 33	orange	f 85	celery
f 3	cod	f 35	potato	f 91	mango
f 4	wheat flour	f 37	blue mussel	f 92	banana
f 5	rye flour	f 41	salmon	f 218	pepper
f 12	pea	f 49	apple	f 256	walnut
f 13	peanut	f 48	onion	g 12	rye
f 14	soybean	f 59	octopus	i 1	bee venom
f 17	hazelnut	f 75	egg yellow	i 3	wasp venom
f 23	crab	f 76	α-laktalbumin	i 6	cockroach
f 24	shrimp	f 77	β-laktoglobulin		

AUTOIMMUNITY CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE ACT

New Program

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human sera.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

ANA-Screening	ENA-Screening	anti-SM
anti-ds-DNA	anti-SSA/Ro	anti-U1-nRNP
	anti-SSB/La	anti-Scl 70

AUTOIMMUNITY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS — ARA

New Program

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human sera.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti-CCP	anti-MCV	RF

AUTOIMMUNITY ANTI-PHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME — APS

New Program

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human sera.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti-Cardiolipin	anti-ß2-Glycoprotein

HORMONES — HOR

Liquid or lyophilized samples (minimum 2 mL) of human sera with added analytes of human origin.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program two samples per survey in quarterly program.

Analytical parameters:

Aldosterone	Insulin	T3, total
AMH	LH (Luteinizing Hormone)	T4, free
Androstendione	Estradiol	T4, total
Calcitonin	Folate	Testosterone
C-Peptide	IgE	Thyreoglobulin
Cortisol	PTH	TSH
DHEA-S	Progesterone	Vitamin B12
FSH	Prolactin	Vitamin D
hCG	SHBG	
Human Growth Hormone	T3, free	

SPECIFIC PROTEINS — SP

Liquid (minimum 1 mL) or lyophilized samples (1 mL) of human sera with added analytes of human origin.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (SP12), two samples per survey in quarterly program (SP4).

Analytical parameters:

Albumin	C4	IgM
Alpha-1-acid glycoprotein	Ceruloplasmin	Prealbumin
Alpha-1-antitrypsin	CRP (C-Reactive Protein)	RF
Alpha-2-macroglobulin	Haptoglobin	Transferrin
ASO	IgA	
Beta-2-microglobulin	IgE	
C3	IgG	

TUMOR MARKER TM

Liquid or lyophilized samples (minimum 2 mL) of human sera with added analytes of human origin.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program, two samples per survey in quarterly program.

Analytical parameters:

AFP	CA 125	PSA, total
CEA	CA 15-3	PSA, free
CA 19-9	Ferritin	

TUMOR MARKER/HORMONES TMH

Lyophilized sample (minimum 3 mL) of human sera with added analytes.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (TMH12), two samples per survey in quarterly program (TMH4).

Analytical parameters:

AFP	Ferritin	SHBG
Aldosterone	Folate	T3, free
AMH	FSH	T3, total
Androstendione	hCG	T4, free
CA 125	Human Growth Hormone	T4, total
CA 15-3	IgE	Testosterone
CA 19-9	Insulin	Thyreoglobulin
Calcitonin	LH (Luteinizing Hormone)	TSH
CEA	Progesterone	Vitamin B12
Cortisol	Prolactin	Vitamin D
C-Peptide	PSA, free	
DHEA-S	PSA, total	
Estradiol	PTH	

MICROBIOLOGY PROGRAMS

ADENOVIRUS ADE

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Adenovirus

ASPERGILLUS FUMIGATUS ASF

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Aspergillus fumigatus

BACTERIOLOGY BAC

4 lyophilized samples (pure strains and/or mixture of bacteria): 2 for identification and 2 for antibiotic susceptibility testing.
4 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

Identification (genus and species) Antibiotic susceptibility testing

BORRELIA BOR

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

IgG and IgM antibodies against Borrelia

BRUCELLA BRU

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Brucella

CHAGAS — CHA

New Program

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti-Trypanosoma cruzi IgG/IgM

CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE — CHP

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies against Chlamydia pneumoniae

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS — CHT

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies against Chlamydia trachomatis

COXSACKIEVIRUS — COX

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Coxsackievirus

ECHO-VIRUS — ECH

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against ECHO-Virus

ENTEROVIRUS ENT

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Enterovirus

EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS EBV

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma. 4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

anti-EBV VCA IgG + total	anti-EBV EBNA-1 IgG + total	anti-EBV VCA IgM

HEPATITIS A VIRUS HAV

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma. 4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

anti-HAV IgG + total	anti-HAV IgM

HEPATITIS B VIRUS HBV

2 liquid samples (minimum 1 mL) of human plasma. 4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

anti-HBs (qual. and quant.)	anti-HBe	HBeAg
anti-HBc	HBsAg (qual. and quant.)	anti-HBc IgM

HTLV I/II HTL

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti HTLV I/II

INFECTIOUS DISEASE COMBINATION CONTROL INF

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma. 4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

anti-HIV 1/2	anti-HBc	HBsAg
anti-HCV		

INFLUENZA A VIRUS — INA

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Influenza A Virus

INFLUENZA B VIRUS — INB

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA, IgG and IgM antibodies against Influenza B Virus

LEPTOSPIRA — LEP

2 liquid samples (0,5 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgG and IgM antibodies against Leptospira

MEASLES — MEA

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

IgG and IgM antibodies against Measles Virus

MOSQUITO TRANSMITTED DISEASES — MTD

New Program

4 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti-Chikungunya Virus IgG/IgM anti-West Nile Virus IgG/IgM anti-Zika Virus IgG/IgM
anti-Dengue Virus IgG/IgM

PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS — PIN

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgA and IgG antibodies against Parainfluenza Virus

PARVOVIRUS B19 — PAR

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

IgG and IgM antibodies against Parvovirus B19

Q-FEVER — QFE

New Program

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

anti-Coxiella burnetii Phase I IgG/IgA
anti-Coxiella burnetii Phase II IgG/IgM

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS — RSV

2 liquid samples (minimum 0,3 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010.

Analytical parameters:

IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

SYPHILIS — SYP

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

anti-Treponema pallidum antibodies

ToRCH — TORCH

2 liquid samples (1.5 mL) of human plasma.
4 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

- anti-CMV IgG + total (qual. and quant.)
- anti-CMV IgM
- anti-HSV 1/2 IgG + total (qual. and quant.)
- anti-HSV 1/2 IgM
- anti-Rubella IgG + total (qual. and quant.)
- anti-Rubella IgM
- anti-Toxoplasma gondii IgG + total (qual. and quant.)
- anti-Toxoplasma gondii IgM

VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS — VZV

2 liquid samples (1 mL) of human plasma.
2 surveys per year.

Analytical parameters:

- anti-VZV IgG + total
- anti-VZV IgM

HEMATOLOGY PROGRAMS

ERYTHROCYTE SEDIMENTATION RATE — ESR

2 liquid samples (2 mL) containing erythrocytes.
4 surveys per year. This program is not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17043:2010. The samples are not suitable for testing on Alifax and Alcor iSED instruments.

Analytical parameters:

- Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate per hour

HEMOGRAM — HEM

Liquid samples (minimum 2.5 mL) of whole blood. The samples contain stabilized human red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets of human and/or non-human analogs.
4 or 12 surveys per year. One sample per survey in monthly program (HEM12), two samples per survey in quarterly program (HEM4).

Analytical parameters:

- HCT (hematocrit)
- HGB (hemoglobin)
- MCH (mean corpuscular hemoglobin)
- MCHC (mean cellular hemoglobin concentration)
- MCV (mean corpuscular volume)
- MPV (mean platelet volume)
- PLT (platelets)
- RBC (red blood cells)
- RDW (RBC distribution width)
- WBC (white blood cells)

Survey Calendar 2018
Version 20170905

	Date		Biochemistry	Immunology	Microbiology	ESR	Hemogram	
Nov 17	15	Deadline for Ordering (Q1-Q4 of 2018)	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	quarterly program surveys 1 - 4	monthly program surveys 1 - 12 quarterly program surveys 1 - 4	Nov 17
Jan 18	15	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 1	quarterly program survey 1		Jan 18
	22	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 1	
	29	Deadline for Result Entry				quarterly program survey 1		
Feb 18	5	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 1		monthly program survey 1	Feb 18
	6	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 2 quarterly program survey 1	
	9	Deadline for Ordering (Q2-Q4)	monthly programs surveys 4 -12 quarterly programs surveys 2 - 4 semi-annual programs surveys 1 - 2	monthly programs surveys 4 -12 quarterly programs surveys 2 - 4 semi-annual programs surveys 1 - 2	monthly programs surveys 4 -12 quarterly programs surveys 2 - 4 semi-annual programs surveys 1 - 2	quarterly program surveys 2 - 4	monthly program surveys 4 - 12 quarterly program surveys 2 - 4	
	12	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1			
	19	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 2 quarterly program survey 1	
	20	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 3	
Mar 18	5	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 2 quarterly programs survey 1		monthly program survey 3	Mar 18
	12	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 3			
Apr 18	3	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 3			Apr 18
	9	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1	quarterly program survey 2		
	16	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 4	
	23	Deadline for Result Entry				quarterly program survey 2		
	30	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1	monthly programs survey 4 quarterly programs survey 2 semi-annual programs survey 1		monthly program survey 4	
May 18	7	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 5	monthly programs survey 5	monthly programs survey 5		monthly program survey 5 quarterly program survey 2	May 18
	9	Deadline for Ordering (Q3-Q4)	monthly programs surveys 7 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 3 - 4	monthly programs surveys 7 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 3 - 4	monthly programs surveys 7 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 3 - 4	quarterly program surveys 3 - 4	monthly program surveys 7 - 12 quarterly program surveys 3 - 4	
	22	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 5 quarterly program survey 2	
	28	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 5	monthly programs survey 5	monthly programs survey 5			
	28	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 6	

	Date		Biochemistry	Immunology	Microbiology	ESR	Hemogram	
Jun 18	4	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 6	monthly programs survey 6	monthly programs survey 6			Jun 18
	11	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 6	
	25	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 6	monthly programs survey 6	monthly programs survey 6			
Jul 18	9	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3	quarterly program survey 3		Jul 18
	16	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 7 quarterly program survey 3	
	23	Deadline for Result Entry				quarterly program survey 3		
	30	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3	monthly programs survey 7 quarterly programs survey 3		monthly program survey 7	
Aug 18	6	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 8	monthly programs survey 8	monthly programs survey 8		monthly program survey 8	Aug 18
	8	Deadline for Ordering (Q4)	monthly programs surveys 10 - 12 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs surveys 10 - 12 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs surveys 10 - 12 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	quarterly program survey 4	monthly program surveys 10 - 12 quarterly program survey 4	
	20	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 8 quarterly program survey 3	
	27	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 8	monthly programs survey 8	monthly programs survey 8			
	27	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 9	
Sep 18	4	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 9	monthly programs survey 9	monthly programs survey 9			Sep 18
	10	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 9	
	24	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 9	monthly programs survey 9	monthly programs survey 9			
Oct 18	8	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	quarterly program survey 4		Oct 18
	15	Begin of Result Entry					monthly program survey 10	
	22	Deadline for Result Entry				quarterly program survey 4		
	29	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2	monthly programs survey 10 quarterly programs survey 4 semi-annual programs survey 2		monthly program survey 10	
Nov 18	5	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 11	monthly programs survey 11	monthly programs survey 11		monthly program survey 11 quarterly program survey 4	Nov 18
	14	Deadline for Ordering (Q1-Q4 of 2019)	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	monthly programs surveys 1 - 12 quarterly programs surveys 1 - 4	quarterly program surveys 1 - 4	monthly program surveys 1 - 12 quarterly program surveys 1 - 4	
	19	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 11 quarterly program survey 4	
	26	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 11	monthly programs survey 11	monthly programs survey 11			
	27	Begin of Result Entry	monthly programs survey 12	monthly programs survey 12	monthly programs survey 12		monthly program survey 12	
Dec 18	10	Deadline for Result Entry					monthly program survey 12	Dec 18
	17	Deadline for Result Entry	monthly programs survey 12	monthly programs survey 12	monthly programs survey 12			

ESfEQA

GENERAL TERMS FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SURVEYS OF ESFEQA

Status September 2016

1. Participation
The participation in the external quality assessment (EQA) surveys of ESfEQA is possible for everyone who performs laboratory tests in their own practice or in a managed medical laboratory. The following conditions for participation apply.

2. Consent to conditions for participation
Upon registration by ESfEQA GmbH, the participant is in agreement with these general terms for participation.

3. Assignment of services
Individual parts for EQA (e.g. pretesting of values, packaging and shipping) can be assigned to subcontractors. ESfEQA is responsible for the work of the subcontractors.

4. ESfEQA catalogue
The portfolio of the EQA services offered by ESfEQA and the analytes contained in the individual programs are described in the ESfEQA catalog. According to the sample availability and the number of participants, ESfEQA reserves the right to not offer the complete analyte list for each EQA test sample.

5. Schedule
The schedule is published in the catalog and on the homepage of ESfEQA. It contains the binding deadlines for ordering, registration, testing period, deadline for result submission and latest point of time for the creation of the record. After the deadline for ordering and registration there is no claim for the acceptance of late orders and registrations. After the deadline for result submission, no further test results are accepted. The calendar date refers to the time zone at the place of business of ESfEQA in Heidelberg, Germany (GMT +1).

6. Cancelation of EQA surveys
ESfEQA reserves the right to cancel EQA surveys or to defer. This is being told to the participants before the originally planned shipping date of the samples. In this case, ESfEQA tries to offer an appropriate alternative date.

7. Registration
For the participation at the ESfEQA EQA surveys a registration is required. This can be completed online or the required information can be conveyed to ESfEQA in written form. The following information is required: laboratory name, name of the organization/hospital, name of participant, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address.

8. Ordering of samples
Sales for ESfEQA EQA surveys normally take place through international distributors. If there is no distributor at hand in the country of the participant, the distribution may take place directly through ESfEQA. The order transaction between participant and distributor is the responsibility of both parties. As a rule, an EQA program is ordered for an entire calendar year. Orders in the course of the year will in general include the survey samples until the end of the respective calendar year.

9. Homogeneity and stability of the EQA samples
The EQA test samples chosen by ESfEQA were tested and evaluated in regard to homogeneity and stability. The homogeneity of the samples is specified as ss ≤ 0,3 SD with ss as inter-sample standard deviation and SD as the standard deviation of the proficiency test.

10. Labeling of the EQA samples
The EQA samples are identifiable by their labeling. It consists of the short name of the program, the year of transmission, the run and a marker, when several samples are being used for a program and run. Thus, the sample with the labeling CM4_2016_01_a belongs to the quarterly program Cardiac Marker (CM4) in the year 2016 and is sample “a” of the first transmission.

11. Shipping of EQA samples
Shipping of the EQA samples takes place by postal or parcel service until the dates published in the catalog. Due to governmental restriction, or insufficient stability, the shipping of individual EQA programs in specific countries can be excluded.

12. Instructions for Use
Instructions for Use are provided to the participants for each EQA program on the ESfEQA home-page. They contain instructions and other information for the preparatory treatment of the samples, the stability of the sample and the deadline for result submission.

13. Use of EQA samples
EQA samples are to be handled like patient samples and should be measured similarly as routine samples according to the test instructions of the reagent manufacturer. They may be used only for the purpose of participation at an EQA survey and not for purposes other than intended. Generally, the usual precautions in the laboratory for potential hazardous samples apply for the EQA samples.

14. Input of test results
Input of the measured values by the participant includes, when necessary, not only the actual measuring value but also the method used, the instrument used and the reagent used. The input mask of ESfEQA predetermines the required information for each EQA program. A list for methods, instruments and reagents is provided on the result entry form.
If the method, instrument or reagent used for the measurement by the participant is not contained in the list, participants convey this to ESfEQA through the input mask. The participant can use his/her selected method, instrument and reagent information immediately for the input of his test results.

The choice of method, instrument and reagent and the input of the measuring values are conveyed through the web portal of ESfEQA. The participant receives the login-information required for the input from ESfEQA. The password consists of at least 8 characters, thereof at least 2 special characters. User name and password are to be kept in confidence by the participant.
Alternatively to the online input, the data can be put in by a form, that is sent to ESfEQA either by E-Mail (info@esfeqa.eu) or Fax (+49 6221 894669-90). The EQA program specific form is provided on the ESfEQA homepage.
All test results of the EQA participants conveyed in due time are assessed by ESfEQA. For the loss or the late arrival of his/her data the participant bears the risk. There is no claim for data assessment of test results arrived late.
Quantitative measuring values are generally specified with a value and a unit. The choice of the amount of specified digits is decided by the participant. Input of results as "< measurement range" or "< 100" are not allowed. If the analysis system shows such values, they are to be interpreted by the participant, e.g. as 0 or as specification of the value of the lower measurement range. For results above the measuring range the sample may be diluted (if that is recommended in the individual application) or shall be reported as the upper measurement range.
For the input of quantitative results, several units are normally available. The units are converted into the standard unit used by ESfEQA. This standard unit is also used for the creation of the records.

15. Number of results per participant
For each EQA sample and analyte, up to 3 values per participant can be entered. The values have to be determined by different, independent from each other, analytic systems.

16. Correction of transmitted results
After the input of the results into the web-input mask, a correction or change by the participant is no longer possible. If inaccurate values are recognized by the participant, (s)he can convey this to ESfEQA in written form specifying the reason up until the deadline for submission of the EQA survey. After verification and acceptance of the correction request, the result can be changed by ESfEQA. The same procedure applies for results submitted by e-mail and fax.

17. Evaluation of EQA results
For each analyte measured in the EQA program the kind of determination of target value and the acceptance criteria are predetermined. For quantitative parameters the target value normally is the consensus value. This value is calculated according to ISO/IEC 13528:2005, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons' by robust statistics.
Qualitative samples are being tested thoroughly with differing systems before the usage as EQA samples. Thereby the target value is determined.
As far as reasonable and possible, system specific differences are being considered. The differentiation to the greatest possible extent takes place according to the method used, instrument, and reagent (M,I,R group). The minimum amount of results of an evaluation group is 5 values. If this amount is undercut, an evaluation in the superior group, e.g. all values, which have been measured with the same method (M group) takes place. The determination of the evaluation group is documented in the record.
The maximum allowable deviation from the target value of quantitative specified analytes is predetermined and can be found on the ESfEQA homepage. The interval was derived from the medical relevance and the reference interval. In the presentation of the report, the upper limit of the allowed range corresponds with a z-value of 3 and the lower limit with a z-value of -3.

18. Creation of reports
After the evaluation of the EQA survey, the participants receive reports, which are provided electronically. The reports contain the results submitted by the participant in comparison to the results of his peer group, a display and comparison of all peer groups, a graphic illustration of the data as histogram, a Shewhart-chart with the participant's previous results in the EQA surveys and in the case of quantitative surveys, which consist out of 2 samples, a Youden plot for the illustration of the z-values of both samples in comparison to other participants.

19. Loss and damage of EQA test material
In case of loss or damage of sample material, damages are compensated by ESfEQA GmbH when possible, without acknowledgement of any claims, by sending substitute test specimens when possible, if an immediate notification took place. However, the contract counts as fulfilled already at the posting date of the first shipping.

20. Complaints
After receipt of the EQA reports, complaints are possible within a period of 4 weeks. After the end of this period, the participant's claims on the basis of complaints are excluded. In case of justified complaints, a claim on performance of a substitute EQA survey exists. The eventual incidental costs for reagents, expenditure of time, etc. are not being compensated by ESfEQA, as long as ESfEQA is not liable according to cipher 21 of this conditions of participation.

21. Guarantee
For any type of loss, ESfEQA is liable only in the case of intention and gross negligence and in the case of presentation of the other eligibility requirements for claims.

22. Confidentiality
Individual EQA data is kept confidential. Data is disclosed to the participant, his or her distributor and the ESfEQA staff. ESfEQA collects, processes and uses personal data of the participant only as far as this is required for the performance of the EQA surveys, the creation of the records and for the purpose of quality assurance. This includes the forwarding of participant and device number identifiable data for the quality assurance measures to the individual manufacturer of the test system (device and reagent).

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