

Trace Elements External Quality Assurance Scheme (TEQAS) Overview 2015-16

Matrix Type	Analytes Offered	Reporting Procedure	Reports issued	Sample Distribution	Sample volume/mass in 1 set
Serum	Zn, Cu, Al, Se, Cr and Co	Online via UK NEQAS	Reports issued within 5 working days of the end the month (monthly)	12 samples dispatched twice a year (24 samples annually)	3 ml of each of the 24 samples
Blood	Pb, Mn, Cr, Co, As, Cd, Mg, Hg, Zn, Se and TI	Online via UK NEQAS	Reports issued within 5 working days of the end the month (monthly)	12 samples dispatched twice a year (24 samples annually)	3 ml of each of the 24 samples
Urine	Hg, Cu, Fe, Zn, Cr, Co, As, Cd, Pb, Mn, Ni, TI and Se	Online via UK NEQAS	Reports issued within 5 working days of the end the month (monthly)	12 samples dispatched twice a year (24 samples annually)	4 ml of each of the 24 samples
Water and Dialysis Fluid (DF)	Al	Results returned and reports issued by email	Reports issued within 5 working days of the end the month (monthly)	4 Samples (2 in Water, 2 in DF) dispatched a month (48 samples annually)	15-20 ml of each of the 48 samples
Solid Matrix Scheme	Cu and Fe	Results returned and reports issued by email	Reports issued within 5 working days of the end the month (monthly)	3 Samples dispatched quarterly (12 samples annually)	15 mg of each of the 12 samples

About Us

- The Trace Elements External Quality Assessment Scheme (TEQAS) is part of UK NEQAS and operates from Guildford, Surrey in the United Kingdom from purpose built laboratories.
- The schemes were fully accredited by Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd. (CPA) in 2000 and have been successfully re-assessed thereafter.
- TEQAS is designed principally for laboratories serving clinicians and patients. Initially established for UK hospital laboratories there are now many non-UK health care participants, research laboratories and other establishments that take part in the scheme.
- Intending participants should contact the Scheme Organiser for enrolment documents.

Contact Information

TEQAS: UK NEQAS for Trace Elements

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Website: www.surreyeqas.org.uk

The preferred contact method is by email but our address along with our phone and fax numbers are also shown above.

UK NEQAS

Results for the serum, blood and urine schemes are submitted through the UK NEQAS website at www.birminghamquality.org.uk. UK NEQAS aims to:

- Provide professionally-led and scientifically-based schemes with a primarily educational objective
- Provide regular distributions of specimens
- Provide rapid feedback of performance
- Support participants where problems occur
- Stimulate the overall improvement in performance among all participating laboratories