BMS Micro EQA Schemes							
Product Code:	EQA Scheme:	Description of samples:	Tests assessed and units:	Suitable for analysis by:	Number of samples per distribution:	Number of distributions per year:	Option to submit more than one result per sample (1)
TVE01	*Trichomonas vaginalis*	Samples submitted as simulated High Vaginal Swabs / Low Vaginal Swabs in modified charcoal transport media. Alternative media such as Copan transport media is available (2).	Detection of :- Trichomonas, *Candida* spp. Group B HS (*S. agalactiae*)	Direct microscopy, Cultural methods, Acridine orange stain and / or by Molecular testing as appropriate for individual components.	4	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Organisms that may be expected to be included in this scheme include:- *Trichomonas vaginalis, Candida* spp. and *Streptococcus agalactiae*. Normal vaginal flora may / may not be present in samples.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, by adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result. Only the components reported will be scored. Maximum score available will be reflected by components reported.					

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BVE02	Bacterial Vaginosis	Samples submitted as air dried, heat fixed unstained slides.	Report on BV status Normal, Intermediate, Abnormal by recognised Grading System	Staining and microscopy	3	4	Yes
Target value set by:		Consensus of participant results.					
Assessment:		Results scored as:- 2 satisfactory result, score 1 questionable result and score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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ACE03	Acanthamoeba	Simulated Corneal Scrape Presented as 3.0 ml liquid samples in saline.	Detection of Acanthamoeba Trophozoites and / or Cysts may be present.	Direct microscopy and by traditional cultural method	3	3	Yes
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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BCE05	Blood Cultures	Samples presented as a set of paired bottles, O_2 and AnO_2 together with paediatric bottle. Samples are matched with participating laboratory routine instrument and pre-inoculated ready to be directly loaded.(2)	Organism isolated and identification. Where requested includes reporting on resistance markers. Laboratories are also asked to report TTD although this is not assessed.	Blood culture growth monitoring instrument. Organism ID systems as appropriate and analysis for resistance markers by disc testing, PCR, latex agglutination, lateral flow or by other instrumentation	3	6	Yes
Target Component(s)		Any organism that may reasonably be expected to be isolated from blood culture. (Hazard Group 2 organisms only).					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Correct identification scored 2 for satisfactory result, score 1 for questionable result and score 0 for unsatisfactory result. Where resistance markers are reported, score 2 satisfactory result, score 1 questionable result and score 0 unsatisfactory result. Multiplier included as x 2 where a higher level of technical approach is required to achieve satisfactory outcome.					

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QUE06	Urine Analysis	Simulated 20 ml urine samples in Boric Acid bottles. Samples may be Mid-Stream Urine, Catheter specimen or Supra-Pubic Aspirate	Analysis of WBC/µl Semi-Quantitative Culture (cfu/ml within an appropriate range) Organism Identification and first line sensitivity testing where requested.	WBC counts by microscopy and / or by flow cytometry. Semi-quantitative count by traditional cultural method using standard loop, dip strip and commercial cultural methods. Organism identification systems as appropriate and sensitivity testing by disc diffusion, plate incorporation and by commercial instrumentation as applicable.	3	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Any organism that may reasonably be expected to be isolated from urine, including organisms that may be described as skin and / or faecal contamination where mixed cultures may be included. (Hazard Group 2 organisms only).					
Target value set by:		WBC Counts by consensus of participant results. Individual results assessed by calculation of z-score. Semi-quantitative culture result by formulation, adding a specified concentration of organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism. Organism ID by formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism. Sensitivity test results by consensus of participant results.					
Assessment:		WBC Counts scored as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. Semi-quantitative culture as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. Organism ID as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. Sensitivity test result as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. See EQA reports for more detail description of assessment criteria.					

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MBE07	Mycobacteria Blood Culture	Pre-inoculated Myco/F Lytic Blood culture bottles Samples also available in lithium heparin whole blood collection tubes.	Detection of *Mycobacteria* spp.	Cultural methods suitable for Mycobacteria May be suitable for molecular methods please enquire.	2	3	No
Target Component(s)		*Mycobacterium* spp. Hazard group 2.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result					

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MYE08	Mycology Microscopy and Culture	Samples are presented as nail clippings for analysis.	Microscopy for fungal hyphae and culture for dermatophytes	Light microscopy and fluorescence microscopy and traditional cultural methods.	2	4	No
Target Component(s)		Dermatophytes that may be responsible for fungal nail infection.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result. See EQA reports for more detail description of assessment criteria.					

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CFE09	Cerebrospinal Fluid	Samples presented as simulated CSF 4.0ml	WBC count/µl Gram stain Organism ID and where requested includes reporting of resistance marker.	Cell counts by Microscopy and by flow cytometry. Gram stain, organism identification systems as appropriate and resistance markers by disc testing, PCR, latex agglutination, lateral flow or by other instrumentation.	3	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Any organism that may reasonably be expected to be isolated from CSF samples. (Hazard Group 2 organisms only).					
Target value set by:		WBC Counts by consensus of participant results. Individual results assessed by calculation of z-score. Organism ID / resistance marker by formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		WBC counts scored as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. Gram stain / organism ID and resistance marker as, 2 satisfactory result, 1 questionable result, 0 unsatisfactory result. See EQA reports for more detail description of assessment criteria.					

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CGE10	Cryptosporidia / Giardia	Samples presented as 3.0ml liquid faeces.	Presence / absence of Cryptosporidia and / or Giardia	ELISA, PCR, Microscopy by ZN stain / wet preparation as appropriate. Lateral flow technique	3	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Samples may be expected to contain *Cryptosporidium parvum* and / or *Giardia* spp.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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MYE11	Mycology Microscopy	Samples are presented as nail clippings for analysis.	Microscopy for fungal hyphae.	Light microscopy and fluorescence microscopy.	2	4	No
Target Component(s)		Dermatophytes that may be responsible for fungal nail infection.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Microscopy results scored on Presence / Absence of fungal hyphae. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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ENE12	Extended Enteric Scheme	Samples presented as routine faeces specimens.	Presence / absence of Enteric Pathogens as indicated below.	Traditional cultural techniques, ELISA, PCR, Microscopy by ZN stain / wet preparation as appropriate. Lateral flow technique for some components	5	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Organisms expected to be included in the scheme over a 12-month period include *Campylobacter* spp., *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., Shiga toxin positive *E. coli*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, Cryptosporidia and Giardia. Hazard group 2 only.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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SAE13	*S. aureus* MSSA / MRSA PVL-MSSA PVL-MRSA	Samples presented as simulated screening swabs in charcoal transport medium. Alternative media such as Copan transport media is available (2).	Presence / absence of target organism MSSA or MRSA. Includes testing for Panton-Valentine Leucocidin toxin (PVL-MSSA) and (PVL-MRSA) where tested.	Traditional cultural methods with confirmation of resistance marker by latex agglutination, chromogenic media or by appropriate instrumentation.	3	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		*Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA or MRSA). Normal skin flora may be included.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism to a simulated sample previously free from the target organism.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 0 for unsatisfactory result.					

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FLE14	Sterile Body Fluids including but not limited to Joint Fluid, Ascitic Fluid, Pleural Fluid.	Simulated sterile fluid samples, volume of sample will vary in relation to sample and examination requested. Nominal volume 4.0ml to 10.0ml.	Presence / Absence of sample components depending on sample submitted for examination. Testing may include microscopy including crystals, Gram stain, culture and identification of organism(s) and reporting on resistance markers.	Traditional microscopic examination including polarising microscopy, cultural methods and identification of organisms and PCR, lateral flow, disc diffusion and instrument analysis for resistance markers.	3	4	Yes
Target Component(s)		Any organism that may reasonably be expected to be isolated from samples taken from normally sterile body fluids. (Hazard Group 2 organisms only). Joint fluid crystals.					
Target value set by:		Formulation, adding a specified organism / material to a simulated sample previously free from the target component.					
Assessment:		Results scored on Presence / Absence of target component. Score 2 satisfactory result. Score 1 for questionable result and score 0 for an unsatisfactory result.					

Notes:

1. Option to submit more than one result per sample. The answer to this question for most EQA schemes is yes. Participants may elect to submit more than a single result without having to obtain consent in the first instance. This may help facilitate submission for more than a single method of analysis, for more than a single member of scientific staff where competency is being assessed for example.
2. For some EQA schemes the samples may be presented in more than one format depending on the routine format received by laboratories. For example, for compatibility with sophisticated mechanised processing instruments a Copan Transport Tube may be the preferred choice for analysis. Please enquire for a case-by-case possibility for exceptions to the stated format of sample presentation.