

## DIFF EQA – CYCLE 40

### **Introduction:**

It is important to read and understand this document. If you have any other queries let us know via phone or email.

### **Characteristics:**

Your pack contains 6 diff slides. The dates of analysis for each slide are shown below.

The forms in this pack should be used to report a Differential count. Percentages should be written in the appropriate spaces.

- **Please make sure that the counts add up to 100%**

### **Storage and Stability:**

The material must be stored at room temperature ( $\pm 25$  °C).

### **Important Information:**

**Please check your kit upon arrival and call Thistle immediately if there are any problems with your kit.**

Make sure that you tell us which monthly slide you are returning the results for. Failure to do so is the most common reason for delay in your report being sent back to you

Treat the samples as patient samples – do not give them special treatment.

Fax your results to: + 27 (0) 86-538-4484 or email results to [service@thistle.co.za](mailto:service@thistle.co.za)

The reports will be posted / e-mailed within 7-10 working days after the final cut-off date.

Collusion and falsification of EQA results/reports are not good accreditation practice.

### **Diagnosis:**

We request that you send in one or more diagnoses from the attached list. Should you send us a diagnosis that is not on the list we will submit it to the relevant AdCom for approval prior to being entered.

Each diagnosis you submit should EITHER be in the P for provisional (differential diagnosis) or F for final (most likely diagnosis) based on your evaluation of the clinical history and slide. Make a tick in the P column when you are not quite certain but think that diagnosis likely pending confirmation e.g. from a pathologist or the results of other tests you would like to see performed. Make a tick in the F column when you would report this diagnosis if this was a patient slide in your laboratory. Also suggest any further tests that can be done to confirm your diagnosis.

Please note that we have introduced this system to stimulate more diagnoses being made and allow slide reviewers of various qualifications and experiences to participate. Also note that this is an EQA where the “correct” diagnoses are selected through an expert panel, your selections will not necessarily influence the final list of “correct” diagnoses.

When the report is returned to you, we will inform you of the final diagnosis selected by our expert panel. In addition, we will provide a selection of differential diagnoses based on the varying skills of those likely to be reviewing the slide. Please be aware at all times that a major role of this EQA is educational – we do not score results reported to us. If you disagree with our diagnosis/ diagnoses, let us know. We welcome such input and will always investigate with our supplier laboratory and the experts who have previewed the slide prior to despatch.

**Morphology:**

Please mark with a cross or tick the various morphological features that you see on the slide. We always welcome further additions to our list of morphological features. If you see some feature not available on our forms, please write it on the space at the bottom of the section.

**Safety:**

**Warning: Potentially Biohazardous Material**

The slides are prepared from human blood. Please handle them as you would a patient's differential slide. This scheme has been designed with education in mind, so we advise you to retain the slides for future reference. However if you want to discard the slide please do so by your routine system.

**Return of Results:**

Each of the samples has a number printed on the label. We recommend analysis dates as shown below. Please send your results - **at the latest** - on the final cut-off dates given below. If the recommended analysis date does not allow you to get results to us on time, please analyse earlier. Analyse smears on the date that correlates with the relevant sample number. If in doubt, please contact Thistle immediately for assistance.

**Additional Notes:**

Web site submission will be available soon – we will keep you informed via web site or in the Quality Matters Monthly News Letter.

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Collusion and/or falsification of EQA results are not good accreditation practice.

**Analysis and Final Cut-off Dates for Results:**

<b>Slide No:</b>	<b>Analysis in month:</b>		<b>Final cut-off Dates:</b>		
1	February	2012	27	February	2012
2	March	2012	26	March	2012
3	April	2012	30	April	2012
4	May	2012	28	May	2012
5	June	2012	25	June	2012
6	July	2012	30	July	2012