

## Transfusion Medicine EQA – CYCLE 24 Part 1

### N.B. New Instructions, Material And Analyte

#### Introduction:

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

**Please note that this cycle consists of 1 parts with 6 samples each. Part 1 (1<sup>st</sup> 3 months) contains samples 1 - 6 and part 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> 3 months) samples 7 – 12. Kits will therefore be sent twice in a 6 month cycle for testing. Take note that this programme now includes the Direct Coombs test as well. Due to the low number of participants, Phenotyping will unfortunately no longer be available for reporting.**

**N.B. THIS MATERIAL IS NOT SUITABLE FOR REVERSE BLOOD GROUPING.**

#### Characteristics:

Your pack contains 4 vials of a 15% red blood cell suspension and 2 vials of serum samples.

**The serum samples are not from the same patients as the blood samples.** (The serum should be handled under the same conditions as those applied to the patient samples when testing for Irregular Antibodies. The samples apply to all test systems including the fully automated instruments QWALYS, FREELYS, Nano workstation, and gel filtration method using papain or antiglobulin).

#### Storage and Stability:

The material must be stored at 2 - 8°C. The performance of these samples is guaranteed from first use to the final cut-off date indicated. It is advisable to minimize the time outside the refrigerator and to avoid leaving the samples at room temperature between runs. DO NOT FREEZE!

#### Important Information:

**Please check your kit upon arrival and call Thistle immediately if there are any problems with your kit. Take note that the Transfusion Medicine samples are sent as soon as possible after arrival at the Thistle stores. If an order is received late, we cannot guarantee the stability of the samples.**

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

Fax your results to +27 086 538 4484 or +27 011 463 3036 or email [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.

#### Preparation:

- **Prepare a 5% cell suspension from the ABO and Direct Coombs samples before testing (e.g. dilute 0.33ml of the 15% cell suspension in 0.67ml saline to obtain 1ml of a 5% cell suspension).**
- Continue as you would patient samples undergoing manual or automated testing in compliance with your protocols.

#### Safety:

##### **Warning: Potentially Biohazardous Material**

These samples are from Human origin

The serum has been tested and found negative for anti-HIV I and II antibodies, anti-HCV antibodies, anti-HbsAg antibodies and Syphilis. None of the currently known methods can absolutely guarantee that these products contain no transmissible pathogenic agent. It is advisable to wear gloves and safety spectacles and handle samples of human origin with caution. All substrates that have come into contact with the samples are to be handled as potentially infectious products. Special protective measures, condition for disposal and disinfection should be implemented in accordance with local regulations.

Do not use damaged or leaking reagents.

**Return of Results:**

Each of the samples has a number printed on the label. We recommend analysis date as shown below. Please send your results - **at the latest** - on the final cut-off date given below. If the recommended analysis date does not allow you to get results to us on time, please analyse earlier. 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.

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

**Part 1**

<b><u>Sample No:</u></b>	<b><u>Analysis Dates:</u></b>	<b><u>Final cut-off Dates:</u></b>
1 - 6	21 November 2011	28 November 2011