

Changes to our Differential Slide EQA

There has been a slight modification to the result return sheet for the Diff EQA. You will note that we are trying - with the help of various experts - to improve the service we offer you.

We have reduced the categories available for both Differential Counts and Morphology. In effect we have removed the logical ones, such as White Cells Raised, which we tell you anyway in our brief clinical descriptions.

In future, we will make other changes, to encourage all labs to report back a diagnosis or diagnoses, whether final or provisional. We are keen to send out lists of "approved" diagnoses, rather than allowing any diagnosis to be written in, but asking in each case whether the diagnosis is "final", i.e. would be reported back to the doctor; or "provisional", i.e. needing some sort of confirmation or further tests. In addition this type of tick-box approach will prevent duplications, different names for the same condition, and the use of local terms or "other language" terms.

We will communicate progress on this to you at a later date, but hope to have this change ready for introduction in the next cycle starting August 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jim McCulloch

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EQA Differential Slides/ letters/ Report letter for Feb08