

# AGLAE 2025

## CATALOGUE OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### Medical biology



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## New in 2025 and special features

### New EQA / New PTS

#### Medical biology:

- 84A *Clostridium difficile* in stool
- 131 Manual cytology - Approach to uncertainty of measurements

#### Water microbiology:

- 39 Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* in clean waters

### New in some EQA

(introduced in programmes existing in 2024)

#### Increase to 2 EQA / year:

- 118 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method
- 119 Screening for *Streptococcus agalactiae* or streptococcus B

#### Possible assessment of several technicians / techniques, report of referent results and up to 5 additional results:

- 80A Urinary antigens - *Legionella*
- 80B Urinary antigens - pneumococcus

### External Quality Assessments in medical biology

AGLAE provides some EQA enabling the **check of the analytical phase for each biological sample (matrix)** and other EQA oriented towards the **control of some critical steps** (sub-process).

## EQA in the fields of medical biology

### Medical biology

<b>80</b> Cytobacteriology of urines	<b>Control of some critical steps (sub-process)</b> <b>117</b> Bacteriology - Microscopic examination <b>in neutral solution</b> - Wet mount and Gram stain <b>117A</b> Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination <b>in blood</b> - Wet mount and Gram stain <b>118</b> Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method <b>118A</b> Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips) <b>131</b> Manual cytology - Approach to measurement uncertainties <b>New</b>
<b>80A</b> Urinary antigens - <i>Legionella</i>	
<b>80B</b> Urinary antigens - pneumococcus	
<b>84</b> Bacteriology of stool: culture and PCR	
<b>84A</b> <i>Clostridium difficile</i> in stool <b>New</b>	
<b>85</b> Blood culture - bacteraemia – Complete analysis: culture and PCR	
<b>85A</b> Blood culture - qualitative culture	
<b>87</b> Cytobacteriology of the cerebrospinal fluid - Bacteriology: culture and PCR	
<b>88</b> Bacteriology of sputum	
<b>89</b> Blood culture - fungaemia: culture and PCR	
<b>119</b> Screening for <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> or streptococcus B	

Should there be any differences between the French and English versions of this document, the French version shall prevail.

For each programme's description, you will find the technical content of the test: volumes, parameters, matrices, delivery month...

The samples' delivery months are given for information only.

**Note that transport costs are not included in the EQA price and are invoiced in addition.**

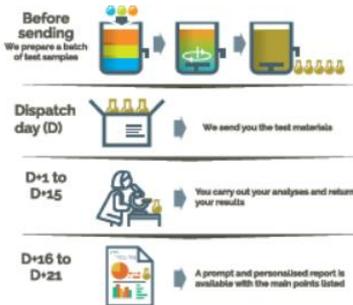
## Participate in AGLAE's External Quality Control



A WAY OF WORKING THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF RESULTS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY

Each step of the way, AGLAE is there supporting you.

### REGISTRATIONS FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING ARE DONE KNOWING THE WHOLE PROCESS, WITH A DETAILED AND RIGOROUS SCHEDULE



- ✓ The number of evaluations per year for each parameter is specified in the catalogue.
- ✓ AGLAE uses "express" shipments for your samples and makes sure of their distribution to your laboratory.
- ✓ A sufficient delay for reporting your analytical results.
- ✓ Via your member area, **enter your results and find instructions, assigned codes, reports, summaries of your results, certificate of participation...**

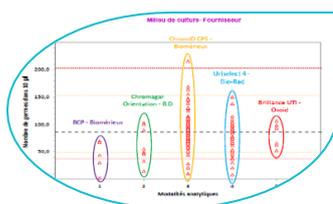
### THE OPTIMISATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR LABORATORY



You receive test samples close to those analysed in routine (materials ready for analysis) which enable you to validate the analytical chain from the receipt of the sample to the report of the result.

You have a better visibility of potential anomalies through:

- ✓ An appropriate test design (duplicate samples, repeated measurements),
- ✓ A large number of participants: around 200 laboratories for the blood culture (complete analysis) and 110 for the cytobacteriology of urines.



AGLAE's detailed study:

- ✓ Influence of the analytical methods, manufacturers (equipment and consumables)? Differences between pair groups? ... factors that we study to help you identify the origin of any anomalies.
- ✓ For waters intended for medical use and water microbiology, estimation of your own uncertainties in microbiology.
- ✓ In medical biology, for some specific strains, the expertise of the French Reference Centre concerned enables you to compare your results with those of an entity recognised by the profession.
- ✓ **A personalized report validated by experts of the field** for most tests (list of the members at the end of the report).

### ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS, PAYMENT CONDITIONS MADE EASIER

- Choose among the various programmes and benefit from discounts up to 15%,
- A possible payment in 2 or 3 folds depending on the amount your participation.
- Payment possible by cheque (in €), bank transfer, credit card on <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/a-g-l-a-e/paiements/aglae>

Amount of your invoice (excluding transport cost)	Discount
3000 ≤ Amount < 6000 € excl. VAT	5%
6000 ≤ Amount < 9000 € excl. VAT	10%
Amount ≥ 9000 € excl. VAT	15%

## PROGRAMME 80: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF URINES

Synthetic urine containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).



€ 392 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

113 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

### 4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M80.1			25M80.2					25M80.3			25M80.4

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells

Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST\*

\*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.



#### Bacteriology:

- Assessment of colony counts and / or abacus according to your practices,
- Assessment of the strain's identification,
- Assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants,
- Overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

#### Cytology:

- Assessment all methods together (z-score and qualitative ranking),
- Assessment per peer group (manual analysis / automated systems Sysmex / automated systems IRIS Beckman / other automated systems subject to the number of users).

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (cytology, identification and semi-quantitative enumeration).



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- ↳ Programme 117 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- ↳ Programme 80A 'Urinary antigens - Legionella'
- ↳ Programme 80B 'Urinary antigens - pneumococcus'
- ↳ Programme 131 'Manual cytology – Approach to measurement uncertainties'

## PROGRAMME 80A: URINARY ANTIGENS - *LEGIONELLA*

Detection using urine antigen tests for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.



€ 192 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

63 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 50 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M80A.1						25M80A.2					

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* urinary antigens

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA



3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

The targets are *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 strains only.

The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



**Other recommended External Quality Assessment:**

↪ Programme 80B ‘Urinary antigens – pneumococcus’

## PROGRAMME 80B: URINARY ANTIGENS - PNEUMOCOCCUS

Detection using urine antigen tests for pneumococcus (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.



€ 194 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

50 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 50 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test				25M80B.1								25M80B.2

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA



3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



**Other recommended External Quality Assessment:**

➔ Programme 80A 'Urinary antigens – Legionella'

## PROGRAMME 84: BACTERIOLOGY OF STOOL: CULTURE AND PCR

Synthetic stool containing a pathogenic strain and commensal flora for bacteriological analysis.



€ 607 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

39 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 80 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - STOOL SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M84.1					25M84.2			25M84.3			25M84.4

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST\*

\*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.



Bacteriology: assessment of the strain's identification

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants, overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms

Assessment of the pathogen's detection by PCR <sup>(1)</sup>. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

<sup>(1)</sup> parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

### SPECIAL FEATURES



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- ↳ Programme 117 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- ↳ Programme 84A 'Clostridium difficile in stool'

## PROGRAMME 84A: *CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE* IN STOOL

*Synthetic diarrhoeal stool for Clostridium difficile detection*

**New**

€ 152 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

New in 2025

### 1 SHIPMENT / YEAR - STOOLS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test						25M84A.1						

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

*Clostridium difficile* and toxins detection

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

Testing for *Clostridium difficile* and/or toxins A and B using various methods:

- Molecular methods (PCR or isothermal amplifications),
- GDH detection using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays or chromatographic immunosorbent assays,
- Detection of toxins using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays or chromatographic immunosorbent assays,
- Culture (results may not be evaluated if the number of results is too low).

Performance evaluation with the assignment of a "qualitative ranking".

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

↳ Programme 84 'Bacteriology of stool': culture and PCR'

## PROGRAMME 85: BLOOD CULTURE – BACTERAEMIA COMPLETE ANALYSIS: CULTURE AND PCR

*Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for microbiological analysis.*



**€ 553 excl. VAT** - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

**194 participants** in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 70 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

### 4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test		25M85.1				25M85.2			25M85.3		25M85.4	

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST\*

\*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.



Detection of the strain, assessment of the strain's identification and statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity<sup>[1]</sup>.

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants, overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

**Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR** <sup>[1]</sup>. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

<sup>[1]</sup> parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

### SPECIAL FEATURES

EQA incompatible with the Rapid method for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (RAST) directly from positive blood culture bottles.



#### Other recommended proficiency tests:

- ↳ Programme 89 'Blood culture – fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- ↳ Programme 85A 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'
- ↳ Programme 117A 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

## PROGRAMME 85A: BLOOD CULTURE - QUALITATIVE CULTURE

Blood containing a pathogenic strain for the detection of a bacteraemia or fungaemia (presence/absence).



€ 284 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

59 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 4 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 40 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test		25M85A.1				25M85A.2		25M85A.3			25M85A.4	

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Bacteraemia/ fungaemia : detection of bacterial or fungal growth

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA



Two batches of samples are sent out to validate the detection of bacterial or fungal growth but also to prove the control of non-contamination of the samples.

A statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity is assigned<sup>[1]</sup>.

<sup>[1]</sup> parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

### SPECIAL FEATURES



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- ↪ **Programme 89** 'Blood culture - fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- ↪ **Programme 85** 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis: culture and PCR'
- ↪ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- ↪ **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

## PROGRAMME 87: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID BACTERIOLOGY: CULTURE AND PCR

*Synthetic cerebrospinal fluid containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).*



€ 306 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

57 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 80 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - CEREBROSPINAL FLUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test		25M87.1							25M87.2			

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells

Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST\*

\*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English



**Bacteriology:**

- Enumeration of colonies (z-score and ranking) to check that there is no tendency for underestimation leading to absence of detection at the detection threshold.
- Assessment of the strain's identification.
- Assignment of discrepancies (minor, major, very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants), restitution of the resistance phenotype and conclusions on resistance mechanisms.

**Cytology:** assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).

**Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR** <sup>[1]</sup>. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

<sup>[1]</sup> parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

### SPECIAL FEATURES



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

- ↗ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- ↗ **Programme 131** 'Manual cytology - Approach to measurement uncertainties'

## PROGRAMME 88: BACTERIOLOGY OF SPUTUM

*Synthetic sputum containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis.*



€ 266 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

48 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 70 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - EXPECTORATIONS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test		25M88.1							25M88.2			

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST\*

\*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English



A guidance about the bacteria cultivation will be provided in the instructions of each test.

Evaluation of the bacterial count (z-score and ranking) to assess whether the bacterial load is above or below the significance threshold. The additional step of fluidification can lead to a significant bias that must be controlled.

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major, very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants), restitution of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on resistance mechanisms.

### PARTICULARITIES



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- ↗ Programme 117 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- ↗ Programme 117A 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

## PROGRAMME 89: BLOOD CULTURE - FUNGAEMIA: CULTURE AND PCR

*Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for fungal analysis.*



€ 289 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

69 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



**Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?**

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): € 75 excl. VAT (excluding transport costs)

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M89.1									25M89.2		

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Fungaemia: detection, identification and antifungal susceptibility testing

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.



Statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity<sup>[1]</sup>.

Laboratories participating in these EQA should treat the samples with the method implemented in routine. Laboratories process the samples with specific flasks/media or with standard bacteriology flasks both aerobic and anaerobic.

**Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR** <sup>[1]</sup>. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

<sup>[1]</sup> parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

### SPECIAL FEATURES



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- ↪ Programme 85 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis : culture and PCR'
- ↪ Programme 85A 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'

## PROGRAMME 119: SCREENING OF *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE* OR *STREPTOCOCCUS B*

Detection of group B streptococcus using culture and/or rapid method from swabs (synthetic matrix) presenting different concentration levels.

€ 191 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

12 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - SWABS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M119.1							25M119.2				

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Streptococcus B detection

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA



3 swabs with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” of the results obtained by culture or by rapid method (antigens or gene amplification).

Evaluation of the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by assigning discrepancies (minor, major, very major).

## PROGRAMME 117: BACTERIOLOGY - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN NEUTRAL SOLUTION - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

*Neutral solution containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)*



€ 65 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

46 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M117.1								25M117.2			

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

## PROGRAMME 117A: BACTERAEMIA - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN BLOOD - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

*Human blood containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)*



€ 67 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

17 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test		25M117A.1									25M117A.2	

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type

### CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

### PARTICULARITIES



Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'

## PROGRAMME 118: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION - DISK METHOD

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested



€ 190 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

22 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

### 2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test							25M118.1					25M118.2

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Receipt of a neutral solution contaminated with an identified strain, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by diffusion (list of antibiotics defined by AGLAE).

Global evaluation with:

- Evaluation of clinical categorisations considering the dispersion around the diameter for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of the measurement of inhibition zone diameters for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of overall trends to over or underestimate the diameter measurement across all antibiotics.

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessments provided for several operators or analytical equipment: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ Programme 118A 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)'

## PROGRAMME 118A: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION – GRADIENT METHOD (MIC STRIPS)

*Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested*

**€ 128 excl. VAT** - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

**25 participants** in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

### 1 SHIPMENT / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test									25M118A.1			

### Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA



Receipt of a neutral solution spiked with a strain of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*\*, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by application of MIC strips (**Cefixime – Ceftriaxone – Azithromycin – Ciprofloxacin – Ofloxacin – Gentamicin – Tetracycline**).

For each antibiotic tested: reading of the MIC, report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations.

*\*Subject to technical changes. In the event of a change, this will be communicated to you at least 3 months before the sample dispatch date.*

### SPECIAL FEATURES



Assessments provided for several operators: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (measurement of diameters).



#### Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 118** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method'

## PROGRAMME 131: MANUAL CYTOLOGY - APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTIES

Biological liquid for cytological examination after reconstitution with a concentrate.

**New to  
catalogue**

€ 152 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

10 participants in 2024

### 1 SHIPMENT / YEAR – BIOLOGICAL LIQUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

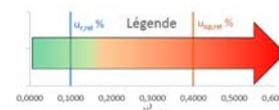
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test							25M131.1					

### Parameters to analyse

Enumeration of red and white blood cells

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

- Receipt of 2 samples composed each of 2 tubes of 7 mL of biological fluid; each of the two samples have different cellular concentrations levels of leukocytes and red blood cells.
- 2 counting wells per operator → *Obtain repeatability indicator*
- Maximum number of operators requested (up to 9) → *Obtain inter-operator indicator*
- Repeatability and inter-operator indicators are presented in graphic form to be monitored over time.
- Evaluation of analytical performance (z-scores) per operator considering inter-laboratory error.
- An overall assessment is assigned when at least 10 analytical results have been evaluated, based on the percentage of “satisfactory” analyses obtained during the test.



### SPECIAL FEATURES

- The number of cells counted per square is required for statistical purposes.
- Different counting cells can be used (Kova slides, Kova Glasstic, Malassez, Fast read, ...).
- To enable analysis by as many operators as possible, 2 tubes per sample are sent for analysis on two different half-days (1 tube per half-day), keeping the samples cool between each reading.