ESfEQA
European Society for External Quality Assessment

Survey for Coagulation (COA4)

EQA Provider:	ESfEQA GmbH Heidelberg
ESfEQA Head of Operations:	Dr. D. Groche

Instructions for Use

Notes:

The usual precautions in the laboratory for potentially hazardous samples apply for these samples. The blood donations used for production were found to be non-reactive for HBsAg, anti-HIV 1/2 and anti-HCV.

Various tasks of the proficiency testing scheme may occasionally be given over to qualified subcontractors. However, ESfEQA is responsible to the participants for the subcontractor's work.

Results from sample analysis may only be disclosed to colleagues from other laboratories after the testing period has been concluded.

By registering for and participating in this EQA participants agree to accept the general terms and conditions of ESfEQA GmbH. These can be retrieved online at www.esfeqa.eu.

1. Intended Use

The samples are intended for use as quantitative control material for External Quality Assessment (EQA) in medical laboratories for the following analytes:

Antithrombin III (as AT III activity and concentration), aPTT, Fibrinogen, D-Dimer, Protein C, Protein S and Prothrombin Time (as Quick and INR values as well as in seconds), Thrombin Time

2. Product Description

The samples are lyophilized material prepared from human blood plasma.

Sample 1: COA4_2024_01_a
Sample 2: COA4_2024_01_b
Sample 3: COA4_2024_02_a
Sample 4: COA4_2024_02_b

3. Storage and Stability

The samples should be stored upright at 2-8 °C. They are stable at least until the deadline for data submission as indicated below.
After reconstitution, samples are stable in tightly recapped vials for 24 hours at 2-8 °C and 15-25 °C.

4. Sample Preparation and Analysis

Remove screw cap from the vial and pipette exactly 1 ml of distilled or deionized water (15-25 °C) to the lyophilisate. Keep the control sample for about 15 minutes at rest in a light-protected place, gently agitate the vial occasionally until the lyophilisate is completely dissolved.

The samples should be treated the same way as patient samples and analyzed in accordance with the instructions of the instrument and reagent manufacturer.

5. Dates and Submission of Test Results

Testing Period for Sample 1 and 2: 13/02/24 - 05/03/24
Testing Period for Sample 3 and 4: 09/04/24 - 30/04/24

Please submit your results electronically to ESfEQA at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu.

Importantly, in addition to transmitting the instrument and method used, please also indicate the reagent that is used for determining the following parameters:

Antithrombin III (activity)
aPTT
Fibrinogen
Protein C
Protein S
Prothrombin Time (Quick)
Prothrombin Time (INR)
Prothrombin Time (s)
Thromnin Time

Contact your local distributor of ESfEQA programs or ESfEQA directly if you need assistance with registration in TEQA. Alternatively, though not preferred, use the fax form provided on the ESfEQA website. In both cases indicate the instrument and method used for the analysis of the samples.

Quantitative results are generally reported with a value and a unit. The participant determines the number of digits for reporting. Results specified as e.g. '< below measuring range' or '< 0.02' are not valid. If the analyzer system displays such results, they shall be interpreted as following: For results within the measuring range and below the Limit of Quantification (LoQ) the obtained value should be reported. For results below the Limit of Detection (LoD), this limit should be reported. For samples that have analyte concentrations above the test range, the sample can be diluted (if recommended for particular applications) or the upper test range limit can be reported as result.

6. Deadline for Data Submission

Deadlines for data submission are (time zone GMT +1):

Sample 1 and 2: 05/03/24
Sample 3 and 4: 30/04/24

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7. Reports and Certificates

The data will be evaluated by ESfEQA. The individual laboratory reports and certificates can be retrieved online at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu. The reports and certificates will be available within 3 weeks after the deadline of data submission.

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