ESfEQA
European Society for External Quality Assessment

Survey for *Aspergillus* Galactomannan Antigen (ASPAg)

EQA Provider: ESfEQA GmbH Heidelberg

Study Coordinator: Dr. D. Groche

Instructions for Use

Notes:

The simulated BAL Fluid supernatants are buffered aqueous solutions. Positive samples have been supplemented with Aspergillus Galactomannan. These samples do not contain human materials.

Serum samples should be considered as potentially infectious. The usual precautions in the laboratory for potential hazardous specimens apply for serum samples. The blood donations used for production of serum samples were found to be non-reactive for HBsAg, anti-HIV 1/2 and anti-HCV. The samples should be tested by trained personnel only.

WARNING: Serum samples contains methylisothiazolones. H317 May cause allergic skin reaction.

Serum samples contains human source material and should be considered as potentially infectious.

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 qualitative and quantitative control material for External Quality Assessment (EQA) in medical laboratories for the following analyte:

Aspergillus Galactomannan Antigen

2. Product Description

The samples are either aqueous protein solutions simulating supernatant from BAL (Bronchoalveolar lavage) fluid or serum samples, respectively. For more information, please refer to the following sample designations:

Sample 1

ASPAg_2025_02_a: BAL Fluid

Sample 2

ASPAg_2025_02_b: Serum

All samples should be treated the same way as patient samples, including pretreatment according to the instructions of reagent manufacturer.

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.

4. Sample Preparation and Analysis

Allow the sample to equilibrate to room temperature for 15 minutes prior to testing. Directly before use, agitate the sample by gently inverting the vial several times.

All samples should be analyzed in accordance with the instructions of the instrument and reagent manufacturers.

Quantitative results are generally reported with a value and a unit. The participant determines the number of digits for reporting. In general result should be reported as measured, however, results specified '< test range' (e.g. '< 10) and '> test range' (e.g. '>2000') are not valid. If the analyzer system displays such results, they shall be interpreted as follows: for results below the test range, the lower test range limit should be reported (e.g. "10"). For samples that have analyte concentrations above the test range, please report the upper test range limit (e.g. "2000") as the result.

5. Dates and Submission of Test Results

Testing Period for Sample 1 and 2: 28/10/25 - 18/11/25

For the evaluation of survey results, please indicate the method and the reagent used. The indication of the instrument is optional.

The complete lists are available at www.esfeqa.de or can be requested at info@esfeqa.de and +49 6221 4166-700.

5.1. Submission of Results by use of the Web-Application TEQA

Please submit your results electronically to ESfEQA at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu while indicating the method and the reagent used. The indication of the instrument used is optional.

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To change the configuration please refer to the TEQA LAB Instructions at http://www.esfeqa.eu/en/eqa-programs/instructions-for-participants/ .

Contact your local distributor of ESfEQA programs or ESfEQA directly if you need assistance for the registration, configuration and result submission in TEQA.

If you do not want to transfer any result for one of the analytes that have been configured, deactivate the respective analyte for the corresponding survey sample using the cross symbol, which is displayed to the right of the analyte. Please include a brief explanation in the appearing text box, why you have not analyzed that parameter.

By pressing the cross-symbol button again, the result input field is reactivated.

All entries are confirmed by pressing the button "confirm". The successful transmission of the results is indicated by “data saved”.

5.2. Submission of Results by use of Result Sheets

As an alternative to the result submission via our web-application TEQA, use the editable result sheet (“Result Form”) provided on the ESfEQA website at https://www.esfeqa.eu/en/eqa-programs/microbiology/aspergillus-gallactomannan-antigen/ .

Please transmit the completed result sheet including the method and the reagent used, for each parameter via email (surveys@esfeqa.eu) or fax (+49 6221 4166-790) to ESfEQA.

6. Deadline for Data Submission

Deadline for data submission (time zone GMT +1):

Sample 1 and 2: 18/11/25

7. Reports and Certificates

The data will be evaluated by ESfEQA.

Please note that, in general, we will not issue a certificate of successful participation for the quantitative determination of *Aspergillus* Galactomannan Antigen since the target values are reagent-specific and a bias to the calculated consensus value does not necessarily represent a poor laboratory performance. The statistical evaluation is for information purposes only.

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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