

International External Quality Assurance Services (IEQAS) programs in National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)

Introduction:

The term external quality assessment (EQA) is used to describe a method that allows for comparison of a laboratory's testing to a source outside the laboratory. This comparison can be made to the performance of a peer group of laboratories or to the performance of a reference laboratory. The term EQA is sometimes used interchangeably with proficiency testing; however, EQA can also be carried out using other processes. EQA is here defined as a system for objectively checking the laboratory's performance using an external agency or facility. Since 2015 AD the NPHL start to joining the International external quality control program for routine laboratory testing program.

OUR EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (EQA) PROVIDERS:

S.N	EQA provider	Tests covered	Frequency
A	The Christian Medical College, Vellore, India (CMC) (Clinical Biochemistry EQAS CMC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For clinical biochemistry 2. For Thyroid& Hormone 3. Reproductive Hormones 4. Tumor Marker 	<p style="text-align: center;">Monthly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrice a year</p>
B	CDC, Atlanta	<p>HIV-Viral load</p> <p>HIV-1 Early Infant Diagnosis using Dried Blood Spot</p>	Twice a year
C	Dr.Lal Path Lab, India (Interlab comparison)	Tests under scope for biochemistry and immunology, not covered by EQA programs	Twice a year
D	RIQAS U.K	<p>Routine hematology (all parameter)</p> <p>Clinical Biochemistry (all parameter)</p> <p>Immunoassay (all parameters except anti TPO)</p>	Monthly

E	NRL Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Serology • Hepatitis serology • HBV viral load • HCV Viral load 	Twice a year
F	NIH Bangkok	Bacteriology parameters	Twice a year
G	Siriraj Hospital Bangkok	CD Test	6 Times a year
H	WHO CC Honkong	NIC (influenza testing) COVID-19 testing	Twice a year
I	Mahidol University	Bacteriology parameters	Twice a year
J	IAMM EQAS CMC	<p>Clinical microbiology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RA 2. CRP 3. ASO 4. Widal 5. RPR 6. Gram Stain 7. Bacteria Identification and AST <p>Virology serology & molecular</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Anti-HBs b. HBsAg c. Anti HCV d. HIV-Combi e. Anti-HBc Igm f. Anti HBe g. HbeAg h. HAV IgM, Rapid i. HEV IgM, Rapid j. HBeAg Rapid 2. Molecular <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. HIV b. HBV c. HCV 	Thrice a year