

LIST OF AGENCIES TO ENDORSE AND/OR PROVIDE EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEMES (EQAS)

Requirements on External Quality Assessment Schemes (EQAS) under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics (PHMC) Regulations:

Quality control

Regulation 52. —(1) The licensee of a clinical laboratory shall ensure that there is an effective and documented quality assurance programme for the clinical laboratory.

(2) The licensee of a clinical laboratory shall —

(a) ensure that quality control measures (including external quality assessments) are taken for every type of test performed at the clinical laboratory;

The following information aims to **guide** healthcare institutions to comply with the abovementioned PHMC regulation by listing agencies/bodies which provide External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS). The list is non-exhaustive and healthcare institutions may subscribe to EQAS that are not on the list.

1 Overseas Agencies

- (a) American Association of Blood Banks (USA)
- (b) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USA)
- (c) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (USA)
- (d) Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK)
- (e) College of American Pathologists (USA)
- (f) National Association of Testing Authorities (Australia)
- (g) National External QA Scheme (UK)
- (h) National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (Australia)
- (i) National Serology Reference Laboratory (Australia)
- (j) Public Health Laboratory Service (UK)
- (k) Royal College of Pathologists (Australia)
- (l) United Kingdom Accreditation Services (UK)
- (m) World Health Organization (excluding WHO collaborating centres in Singapore)
- (n) Medical Laboratory Evaluation Program (MLE) [available through local agents]

2. National Proficiency Testing Schemes

In addition, all clinical laboratories providing specialized tests (e.g. HIV, malaria parasite) listed in the Fifth Schedule of the PHMC Regulations are required to participate in the respective National Proficiency Testing Schemes provided by the following local bodies:

- (a) Blood Services Group (Centre For Transfusion Medicine)
Health Sciences Authority
(National Proficiency Testing for ABO/Rh Testing)
- (b) National HIV Reference Laboratory
Department of Pathology
Singapore General Hospital
(National Proficiency Testing for HIV Testing)
- (c) Central Tuberculosis Laboratory
Department of Pathology
Singapore General Hospital
(National Proficiency Testing for AFB [Smear])
- (d) National Malaria Reference Centre
National Public health Laboratory
Ministry of Health
(National Proficiency Testing for Malaria Parasite Testing)