

Birmingham Quality

T +44 (0)121 414 7300

<https://birminghamquality.org.uk>

[birminghamquality@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:birminghamquality@uhb.nhs.uk)

Wednesday, 20 January 2021

## Subscription Charges for 2021-2022 – UK Public and Private Sector Laboratories (£)

### Terms and conditions

- Invoices are raised by "**University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust**"  
[VAT registration no GB 654 9651 01]
- Bank account details for payment are shown on invoices; settlement terms 30 days from date of invoice
- Subscription charges for the new financial year are listed overleaf for Schemes operated from Birmingham
  - ❑ For 2021-2022 we have further simplified our pricing structure. We have absorbed costs where possible and have enhanced our services and believe we are still offering a great value-for-money service.
  - ❑ We have held list prices but have had to remove some discounts; any changes reflect the true costs that it takes to run each scheme.
  - ❑ We will be surcharging any lab that, in a timely manner, has not made an attempt to pay
  - ❑ We will be switching off the service for any lab that, in a timely manner, has not made an attempt to pay
  - ❑ Subsidiary participations (up to 3 additional analysers at the same site) are charged at 50% of the charge listed\*
  - ❑ Charges cover the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
  - ❑ Charges to participants are subject to VAT at 20% unless you are an NHS body in England.
  - ❑ Participation starting during the period is charged above *pro rata*, to cover additional administration.
  - ❑ No refunds are given for termination during the period.
  - ❑ Participation is deemed to be continuous for 2021-2022 unless Birmingham Quality is advised of any discontinuation by 28 February 2021, and for 2022-2023 unless advised by 28 February 2022.
  - ❑ All services are 'paper-free'.
  - ❑ There are 11 'Monthly' Distributions in the financial year which takes into account Easter, Christmas and New Year etc

### Discounts

- Discounts are applicable to subsidiary participations; Discounts are not applied to the Interpretative Comments scheme.
- For \*Newborn Screening a slightly different algorithm is used which is set in favour of, and helps to minimise the costs for, the Screening Laboratory.

### Services

- UK NEQAS Schemes are accredited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043:2010.
- Our schedule as UKAS accredited proficiency testing provider No. 7860 is available at [www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com).
- Pilot Schemes and non-UK NEQAS Services are clearly identified.
- There is no additional charge for our **Network Reports service**, which is available to those responsible for multiple instrument participations, at the same or different sites. Though **Free of Charge (FOC)**, you must contact us to set these up for you.
- We continue to roll out direct computer-to-computer transfer of results via the **NPEX** system. We already have many Laboratories up and running but, due to the not unexpected demand, NPEX and ourselves are having to place Laboratories into a waiting list before they can be switched on. Please contact us if you are interested. This time saving innovation is currently **Free of Charge (FOC)**.
- We shall be offering new Pilot Schemes during the year, and all eligible participants will be informed.
- Though we may need to charge for some of these new services, any charges will be dealt with separately so you should not delay providing us with an order for the existing services.
- We can offer courier delivery of our specimens. This service can use either your account **or** our account, but there are associated costs either way and there is a minimum duration.
- We will always send out repeat specimens for the current distribution **FOC** if you have issues before the closing date, but we reserve the right to charge for multiple sets of back specimens for trouble-shooting or evaluation purposes.
- If there are additional unforeseen charges following Brexit or charges following edicts from the Government, we reserve the right to pass on such changes at cost to Participants, but we will not make a profit on any such levy.

### On-line re-registration

- The preferred way to renew is to log-on to our Results and Reports service and click the yellow Re-registration button. The simplest way to renew allows you to enter a Purchase Order number on-line which will allow us, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, to send an Invoice to your Finance Department. The inordinate delays of previous years will no longer bug both sides!

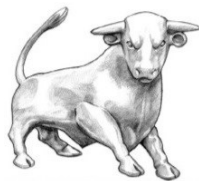
Please email us to request further information if you are considering major changes to your participation



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Please see the schedule for full details of the accreditation status of our schemes.

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Scheme		
Clinical Chemistry (flagship fortnightly scheme)	640	
Antibiotics	340	
Antifungals	340	
Colorectal Cancer Screening	80	
Erythropoietin	300	
Faecal Haemoglobin	300	①
Faecal Markers of Inflammation	540	①
Faecal Pancreatic Elastase	360	①
Fluids	380	
Fructosamine	500	④
GFR Estimation	320	
Glycated Haemoglobin	500	
Haematinics	580	③
Holotranscobalamin	300	
Immunosuppressants	See right	
Intrinsic Factor Antibodies - bimonthly	320	
Lipid Investigations	380	
Newborn Screening <b>Cards</b> reduced service only for labs <b>not</b> offering Newborn Screening services	580	
Newborn Screening (full repertoire)	1540	
Paediatric Bilirubin	360	
Quantitative Phenylalanine	360	
Serum Indices (HIL)	300	
Specific Proteins	380	
Steroid Hormones	See right	②
Sweat Testing	340	
Thyroglobulin	340	
Thyroid Hormones	640	
Tox and TDM [TDM analytes]	300	⑤
Tox and TDM [Tox analytes]	300	⑤
Urinary Catecholamines	340	
Urine Chemistries	540	
Urine Dipsticks	240	⑥
Vitamin Assays	300	⑦
Vitamin D	340	

Scheme/Analytes***②		
Steroid Hormones - 1 analyte	340	
Steroid Hormones - 2 analytes	500	
Steroid Hormones - 3 analytes	720	
Steroid Hormones - 4 analytes	940	
Steroid Hormones - 5 analytes	1140	
Steroid Hormones - 6 analytes	1320	
Steroid Hormones - 7 analytes	1500	
Steroid Hormones - 8 analytes	1680	
Steroid Hormones - 9 analytes	1820	
Steroid Hormones - 10 analytes	1980	
Steroid Hormones - 11 analytes	2120	
Steroid Hormones - 12 analytes	2240	
Immunosuppressants -1 or 2 analytes	340	
Immunosuppressants - 3 analytes	460	
Immunosuppressants - 4 or more analytes	580	
Interpretative Comments [C]		
Individual participation	120	⑧
Group participation	300	⑧
Birmingham Quality		
Point of Care Chemistry	380	⑩
Health Checks	100	⑩
Point of Care Suite	See right	⑥
HbA1c M2	240	⑩
HbA1c B2	160	⑩
This list is always being added to; please phone for details		☎
Pilot Schemes and new services		☎

① These Schemes are available across the British Isles but may not be available in all countries. Please check with us if your method and geography are compatible with the Scheme Specimen Matrix.

② Steroid Hormones is charged by 'analyte' - cortisol (serum), cortisol (urine), 17OH-progesterone, progesterone, oestradiol, oestradiol (high level), testosterone (male), testosterone (female), SHBG (male and female), androstenedione, DHAS and aldosterone.  
Free Testosterone and FAI (both Accredited analytes) do NOT count as an analyte for the purposes of this charging table and are Free of Charge.  
If you belong to either or both SHBGs this will only count as ONE analyte for the purpose of this charging table.

③ Haematonic Assays service includes vitamin B12, folate, ferritin and red cell folate.

④ Fructosamine is Free of Charge if you belong to the Glycated Haemoglobins Scheme.

⑤ Tox and TDM - Tox analytes service includes salicylate, paracetamol, ethanol and ethylene glycol. Tox and TDM - TDM analytes service includes carbamazepine, digoxin, lithium, phenobarbital, phenytoin, theophylline, valproate, primidone, ethosuximide, lamotrigine, caffeine and methotrexate.

⑥ There are heavily reduced rates for large-scale Hub-and-Spoke services where you have more than 5 spokes. Please contact us for a quotation.

⑦ Vitamin Assays service includes carotenes, vitamins A & E.

⑧ Intentionally left blank 2021

⑨ Interpretative Comments is intended for individual participation, but group participation is permitted - one person registers on behalf of the group, a single collective comment is entered and a single report is provided. No discounts are applicable.

⑩ These Birmingham Quality Schemes are fully ISO 17043 accredited; please contact us for further details.

☎ Please telephone us so we can best meet your requirements

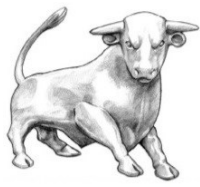
We have set up specimen exchange services for a range of analytes that have insufficient users to allow us to offer a full accredited service. Please contact us for more details. ☎



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**UK NEQAS**  
International Quality Expertise

Birmingham Quality  
PO Box 3909  
Birmingham  
B15 2UE

## Birmingham Quality terms and conditions of EQA participation

[1] The UK National External Quality Assessment Services (UK NEQAS) for Clinical Chemistry and for Haematitics, Antimicrobials and other EQA services, herein known as 'the Schemes', are hosted by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT) and operated through Birmingham Quality.

[2] Samples distributed as part of the Schemes should be treated, handled and disposed of as if they were clinical specimens. Participants must ensure that their laboratory facilities and expertise are adequate to ensure the safe handling of these specimens during their participation in the Schemes.

[3] Membership of the Schemes starts on 1st April each year and continues until 31st March in the next year. If a participant joins part way through the annual period, a reduced fee may be payable reflecting the proportion of the annual service to be supplied for that part year. A participant may withdraw from the Schemes at any time, but no refund will be given of fees paid. Birmingham Quality may amend the design of Schemes during the year, and reserves the right to suspend services which are dependent on supply of clinical materials.

[4] Each laboratory will be registered under a unique code number, which is common across UK NEQAS centres in the case of UK NEQAS services. The fact of participation, identifiable raw data and identifiable performance scores are confidential to the participant and will not be released by the Scheme Organiser to third parties other than under any agreed and defined mechanism for providing counselling to 'poor performers'. All participants offering a direct or indirect clinical service in the UK are subject to the Joint Working Group for Quality Assessment in Pathology's Conditions of EQA Scheme Participation or its successor. Participants are free to share information concerning their own individual participation or performance with individual clients without consultation (but not for advertising). The Scheme may use anonymised specimen and rolling time-window data to produce summary or method-specific or state-of-the-art data.

[5] All reports, and the data they contain, issued by the Schemes are Copyright and may not be distributed, published or used for promotion in any form without permission of the Scheme Organiser.

[6] In the event of a participant failing to pay the membership fee by the due date the Scheme Organiser reserves the right to terminate, without notice, the membership of that participant without prejudice to any claim for payment for services already provided.

[7] UHBFT and Birmingham Quality shall not be liable in any circumstances for indirect or consequential loss howsoever caused, including, without limitation, loss of anticipated profits, goodwill, reputation, business receipts or contracts, or losses or expenses resulting from third party claims.

[8] Participants in the Schemes have entire responsibility for all samples distributed to them under the Schemes and all activities carried out by them or any third party in relation to the samples from the time of their receipt.

[9] UHBFT and Birmingham Quality warrant that all work carried out by it in relation to the Schemes will be carried out using all reasonable care and skill. All conditions, terms and warranties implied by common law, statute or otherwise are, to the extent permitted by law, hereby excluded.

[10] The liability of UHBFT and Birmingham Quality to the participant in any annual period resulting from or in connection with the provision of the Schemes by UHBFT and Birmingham Quality to the participant shall under no circumstances exceed the amount of the annual fee paid by the participant in respect of that annual period.

[11] These conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law, and UHBFT and the participant submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

[12] Notwithstanding GDPR considerations, in addition to sending email reminders about the opening and closing of Distributions, we will occasionally send out information concerning Birmingham Quality and UK NEQAS services. This will include information on new services that we are switching on and also information on educational user groups or Roadshows. We will not use our contact details for marketing of products out with this limited area.

[13] If there are additional unforeseen charges following Brexit or charges following edicts from the Government, we reserve the right to pass on such changes at cost to Participants, but we will not make any profit on any such levy.



**UK NEQAS**



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