



Birmingham Quality News



16 JUNE 2025

www.birminghamquality.org.uk

ISSUE: 015

UK NEQAS Clinical Chemistry

UK NEQAS Clinical Chemistry meetings 2025

01.05.25 – London
09.05.25 – Manchester
19.06.25 – Edinburgh
12.09.25 – Dublin



Why EQA is important for Patient Safety: Showing where EQA has made a difference

Further information and registration

<https://birminghamquality.org.uk/education/meetings/>



Scheme Updates:

- We were extremely proud to accept the LabMedUK25 Impact Award for our Patient-Centric EQA. This week, the work was also runner up in for an Innovation Excellence Aware at the Midlands Healthcare Science Awards 2025.
- Look out for your [UK NEQAS for Glycated Haemoglobins Report](#)! We have a new method of performance monitoring. For analyte HbA1c IFCC Accuracy, the Penalty Box plots have been replaced by Penalty Parabola Plots!
- There are three additional specimens in the [UK NEQAS for Haematinics](#) for Folate analysis. We are trying to better understand the recent changes in analytical performance for Folate, please analyse, even if your method is not affected.



EQA Nuggets:



The rolling time window for ABC statistics is usually six distributions which is usually notionally six months

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| Your A score is | 209 | ● ↔ |
| Your B score is | +4.4 | ● ↔ |
| Your C score is | 2.7 | ● ↔ |
| The A limit is | 200 | |
| The B limit is +/- | 5.0 | |
| The C limit is | 5.0 | |

You may have missed:

[Target Value for Oestradiol has changed](#)

The Target Value for Oestradiol from Distribution 526 of the [UK NEQAS for Steroid Hormones](#) is now the Mass Spectrometry method **median** value (*not a method mean*). This is a better representation of the central tendency of results. Most Immunoassays over-estimate the Oestradiol concentration at low concentrations, so the ALTM was artificially high