National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel for Chemical Pathology Minutes

A meeting of the NQAAP for Chemical Pathology was held on Friday 20th May 2022 via Zoom
Hosted by the Royal College of Pathologists

Dr Lance Sandle
Registrar

Present:	Phil Monaghan (PM)	Chair
	Berenice Lopez (BL)	RCPath
	Dr Ian Bailey (IB)	ACP
	Dr Rachel Still (RS)	ACB
	Jamie West (JW)	IBMS
	David James (DJ)	Advisor
	Katherine Timms	RCPath
	Hoomairah Atchia-Rawat	RCPath
	Shane Johns	RCPath
	Katy Heaney	Q-Point
	Stephen Doherty	RIQAS
	Gwen Wark	TEQAS
	Karen Morgan	LGC
	Emma Walker	DEQAS
	Dina Patel	IMMQAS Bone Metabolism Markers IMMQAS CSF Analysis IMMQAS Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy
	Annette Thomas	WEQAS
	Finlay MacKenzie	UK NEQAS Paediatric Investigations UK NEQAS General Chemistry
	Martin Roch	UK NEQAS
	Alan Reid	UK NEQAS Endocrine & Immunoassay
	Cathie Sturgeon	UK NEQAS Edinburgh - Endocrinology & Oncology
	Jane French	UK NEQAS for Lipid Investigations

Rachel Marrington	UK NEQAS for Urine Chemistries
Gareth Davies	WEQAS

NQCP 1 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and went through the introductions. Apologies for absence had been noted

NQCP 2 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded

NQCP 3 **Minutes of the last meeting, action log and matters arising**

DP noted previous minutes should read ALTM not LLTM on page 3

ACTION RECORDED: HAR to send January meeting notes to all NQAAP attendees. Closed.

Action 1 **To seek nominations for a vice chair.**

PM has sought nominations for Vice Chair of the NQAAP but there has been no interest. PM's term ends in November as well as BL's term.

ACTION RECORDED: PM/HAR/SJ to discuss terms of office for chair and vice chair.

Action 2 **Escalate to CRP Poor Performance to the QAPC but background work is required for data gather. PM to work with EQA providers to support moving forward.**

The SBAR was being reviewed by all panels and the NQAAPs reviewed it.

CRP SBAR Escalated to QAPC and close action

DP (UKNEQAS) and AT (WEQAS) provided additional information to support additional data to pull SBAR together.

PM to take forward with MHRA for:

1) Reclassification matrix
2) SBAR has been useful for informing WS 2 development

ACTION RECORED: PM to look at reclassification matrix.

Action 3 MM looked at the SBAR and advised a misclassification assessment.

MM has left MHRA and has been replaced by Johan Ordish

Closed.

Action 4 Escalation of CRP poor performance to the EQA Oversight Board

BL stated it was about the reporting process and needs a systematic process on how to capture learning and useful learning should be shared across the system. The QAPC is not just about escalation but about sharing learning.

DP mentioned that we must be careful of legal action as Roche maintains it was the EQA sample that was the issue.

QAPC with MHRA could set up a task and finish group to solve issues.

ACTION RECORDED: PM to send new MHRA Contact.

Action 5 – 8 **Do panel members feed into other advisory groups, example SAGS?**

PM suggested that the panel is asked on what is required.

Received feedback from QPoint, RIQAS and PM will support RIQAS and BL to support QPOINT.

RIQAS' next meeting is end June and will report after that.

QPoint's annual meeting is in November.

NQCP 4 **Update for Workstreams 1 & 2**

Workstream 1
Three further documents had been sent for feedback but to date, only BL had provided comments on them. A meeting for workstream 1 to discuss three further documents had been scheduled and these would then be circulated to the Oversight Board. One of the documents to be discussed would be weaved into workstream 2.

Workstream 1 was on schedule to complete all objectives by August. BL thanked LW and workstream 1 members for all their hard work.

Workstream 2
The policy for reporting EQA related concerns and observations to MHRA would be completed soon.

The policy on the management of method-related performance concerns for EQA organisers, which FM was helping with would also be completed shortly.

BL also thanked workstream 2 on behalf of the Forum.

It was suggested that perhaps the College could hold a celebratory event to thank the volunteers in the workstreams separate to the planned launch event on 5 October 2022.

NQCP 5 SBAR

DP reported that the Roche Group method was performing within acceptable limits and NQAAP will continue to monitor this. Negative bias reviewed a year ago was -15% has dropped to -10%. PM was happy that the steering committee is still monitoring this.

MHRA has issued first patient safety alert – they are changing their purpose and has been approved to issue patient safety alerts.

BL reported that this has been escalated and will continue to monitor. The link to NICE guidelines is very helpful. This is all we can do for now and BL will contact the new person at MHRA. BL also said that the MHRA has recently issued their first patient safety alert. They are changing their purpose and have been certified to provide national patient safety alert relating to transfusion and make it more transparent.

It was mentioned that Aiden Plant and Mike Messenger were both very engaged and hopefully the replacement will be too.

GIRFT will also input into this area.

NQCP 6 Review of Administrative support for NQAAP-Chemical Pathology pilot

NQAAP was acting as pilot for scoping requirement for admin resources for other NQAAPs. HAR has kept a tracker for the administration time spent for the NQAAP.

SJ reported that the all the NQAAPs will be managed by the Professional Standards department. An advert has been put for a new member of staff to join the Professional Standards department to manage the meetings,

but recruitment has not being successful to date and it was proposed that a temporary person might be recruited. SJ to report at the next meeting.

PM thanked SJ and HAR for their work and support.

BL said that the paper prepared by Gordon Sinclair has been circulated to EQA Stakeholders to calculate the levy. The aim is that this will be funded centrally and not by EQA providers.

Jo Martin of NHS England/Improvement was approached regarding funding.

NQCP 7 Provision of EQA materials for assay troubleshooting and verification purposes

RS said that she approached a scheme to ask for help with troubleshooting an assay. She also asked couple of other schemes for analytes.

GW mentioned that samples were put together as verification packs to assist labs. They sent packs for free to clinical labs.

DP said that they never used to charge but due to high demand and limited supply –priority was for labs in the scheme. There was a small cost for labs using for verification.

GD mentioned that they tried to cover all ranges and it was also free for labs in the scheme. They charged manufacturers but not clinical laboratories.

RS reported that verification packs as a user were really helpful but needed additional discussion.

FM said that they tried to keep list price down but there were problems with availability of stock.

KM said that LGC had larger stocks of back samples. They had a small charge and if not a member, then the charge was higher.

It was reported that RIQAS did whole stock, but it depended on the scheme. They tried to keep a 5% surplus, but this could be used up.

GW said that they had donation forms for blood samples and could get other patients in i.e., for IVF, diabetics.

NQCP 9 AOB

RS mentioned that some schemes ask for reagent lot numbers. The question was what happened to the information.

DP reported uncovered issue with a manufacturer and there seemed to be a link to reagent lot numbers.

GD said that they only collected lot numbers where there might be an issue.

JW did not routinely submit lot number information. An automated way of doing this would be really useful.

CS said that it is hard to look at lot numbers retrospectively. When there was a request, then it appeared on the reports. These could be interrogated from the system.

NQCP 10 Date of next meeting
Friday 11th Novmeber 2022

Action Log

Action	Detail	Responsible
1.	Send January meeting notes to all NQAAP members.	**HAR**
2.	Discuss terms of office for new chair/vice chair	**PM/HAR/SJ**
3.	Look at reclassification matrix	**PM**
4.	Send new MHRA contact	**PM**
5.	Escalation of CRP poor performance to the EQA Oversight Board	**BL**