AGLAE 2026

EXTRACT FROM THE CATALOGUE OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

MEDICAL BIOLOGY

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List of EQA in the fields of medical biology

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For each programme's description, you will find the technical content of the test: test samples volumes, parameters, matrices, delivery month… *The samples' delivery months are given for information only.*
Note that transport costs are not included in the EQA price and are invoiced in addition.

Programmes' description

One programme includes from 1 to 4 proficiency tests (= rounds).
Prices specified in the catalogue are for the complete programme, which corresponds to several rounds most of the time.
When purchasing a complete programme, the price per test is lower.

Caption

This logo shows that the programme is accredited by LABORATORIES section in compliance with ISO/IEC 17043.

Participate in AGLAE's External Quality Control

A WAY OF WORKING THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF RESULTS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY

Each step of the way, AGLAE is there supporting you.

REGISTRATIONS FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING ARE DONE KNOWING THE WHOLE PROCESS, WITH A DETAILED AND RIGOUROUS SCHEDULE

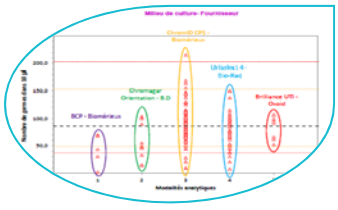
- ✓ The number of evaluations per year for each parameter is specified in the catalogue.
- ✓ AGLAE uses "express" shipments for your samples and makes sure of their distribution to your laboratory.
- ✓ A sufficient delay for reporting your analytical results.
- ✓ Via your member area, **enter your results and find instructions, assigned codes, reports, summaries of your results, certificate of participation**…

THE OPTIMISATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR LABORATORY

You receive test samples close to those analysed in routine (materials ready for analysis) which enable you to validate the analytical chain from the receipt of the sample to the report of the result.

You have a better visibility of potential anomalies through:

- ✓ An appropriate test design (duplicate samples, repeated measurements),
- ✓ A large number of participants: around 170 laboratories for the blood culture (complete analysis) and 110 for the cytobacteriology of urines.



AGLAE's detailed study:

- ✓ Influence of the analytical methods, manufacturers (equipment and consumables)? Differences between pair groups? … factors that we study to help you identify the origin of any anomalies.
- ✓ For waters intended for medical use and water microbiology, estimation of your own uncertainties in microbiology.
- ✓ In medical biology, for some specific strains, the expertise of the French Reference Centre concerned enables you to compare your results with those of an entity recognised by the profession.
- ✓ **A personalized report validated by experts of the field** for most tests (list of the members at the end of the report).

ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS, PAYMENT CONDITIONS MADE EASIER

- Choose among the various programmes and benefit from discounts up to 15%,
- A possible payment in 2 or 3 folds depending on the amount your participation.
- Payment possible by cheque (in €), bank transfer, credit card on https://www.helloasso.com/associations/a-g-l-a-e/paiements/aglae

Amount of your invoice *(excluding transport cost)*	Discount
3000 ≤ Amount < € 6000 excl. VAT	**5%**
6000 ≤ Amount < € 9000 excl. VAT	**10%**
Amount ≥ € 9000 excl. VAT	**15%**

Additional services

ADDITIONAL TEST SAMPLES TO TEST ANOTHER METHOD, EVALUATE A TECHNICIAN

- ✓ Test samples available for almost all the tests at half price.
- ✓ Besides your usual distribution, you receive one (or several) additional parcel(s).
- ✓ The results of these samples are not statistically processed by AGLAE but for most tests you get a sheet **in your results file** where to **calculate your z-score**. Note that this sheet can also be used in case of unit error, incorrect results' report, etc.

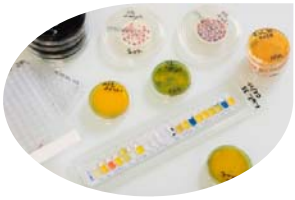
⇒ *Check the **list of samples and their price on your Member Area** (Downloads / Catalogues) and contact us to receive a quote. These additional samples need to be ordered after your registration for the test. Pay attention, available in limited quantities.*

TRAINING SESSIONS IN MICROBIOLOGY: ONE TOPIC PROVIDED IN ENGLISH

Two-day on-line session to become operational for:
Characterising a microbiological method according to ISO 13843* in order to validate it: **6 - 7 May 2026**

* Water quality - Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

⇒ *Find the programme and registration form on our web site, section Training. For any intralaboratory session, please contact us.*



CUSTOMIZED SERVICE: 'PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL METHODS'

Do you need to characterise specific methods?
AGLAE can provide you support to establish methods performance characteristics, in conformity with ISO 13843*. Benefit from AGLAE's technical and statistical experience to validate your microbiological method.
⇒ *Should you have such needs, contact us to study your request together and issue a quote.*

SUMMARY OF YOUR RESULTS FOR WATER MICROBIOLOGY AND WATER FOR MEDICAL USE PTS

Gather at any time your results and performance: for a selected period, your results are grouped in an Excel file; this is a tool to support you in your Internal Quality Control, your audits…

PROGRAMME 80: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF URINES

Synthetic urine containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).

€ 396 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

107 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

4 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	26M80.1			26M80.2					26M80.3			26M80.4

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*, resistance phenotype[1]

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

**AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing*

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Bacteriology:
- Assessment of colony counts and / or abacus according to your practices,
- Assessment of the strain's identification,
- Assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antibiotics,
- Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Cytology:
- Assessment all methods together (z-score and qualitative ranking),
- Assessment per peer group (manual analysis / automated systems Sysmex / automated systems IRIS Beckman / other automated systems subject to the number of users).

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (cytology, identification and semi-quantitative enumeration).

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:
- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 80A** 'Urinary antigens - *Legionella*'
- **Programme 80B** 'Urinary antigens - pneumococcus'
- **Programme 131** 'Manual cytology – Approach to measurement uncertainties'

PROGRAMME 80A: URINARY ANTIGENS - *LEGIONELLA*

Detection using urine antigen tests for Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.

€ 194 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

46 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	**26M80A.1**					**26M80A.2**						

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* urinary antigens

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.
The targets are *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 strains only.
The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:
↳ **Programme 80B** ‘Urinary antigens – pneumococcus’

PROGRAMME 80B: URINARY ANTIGENS - PNEUMOCOCCUS

Detection using urine antigen tests for pneumococcus (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.

€ 196 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

35 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	**4**	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	**12**
Test				**26M80B.1**								**26M80B.2**

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.
The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:
↳ **Programme 80A** ‘Urinary antigens – Legionella’

PROGRAMME 84: BACTERIOLOGY OF STOOL: CULTURE AND PCR

Synthetic stool containing a pathogenic strain and commensal flora for bacteriological analysis.

€ 614 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

33 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 80 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - STOOL SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	**26M84.1**					**26M84.2**			**26M84.3**			**26M84.4**

⚠ Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain by culture and/or PCR, AST*, resistance phenotype [1]
[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Bacteriology: assessment of the pathogenic bacterial strain's identification by culture and/or PCR.

AST: assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antibiotics.

Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Assessment of the pathogen's detection by PCR for at least 2 out of 4 the PTs. The materials sent mimic biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'

PROGRAMME 85: BLOOD CULTURE – BACTERAEMIA
COMPLETE ANALYSIS: CULTURE AND PCR

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for microbiological analysis.

€ 559 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

165 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 70 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	**9**	10	**11**	12
Test		**26M85.1**				**26M85.2**			**26M85.3**		**26M85.4**	

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Bacteraemia: detection, identification by culture and/or PCR, time-to-positivity, AST*, resistance phenotype[1]

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Detection of the strain, assessment of the strain's identification by growth and/or PCR and statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity.

AST: assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antibiotics.
Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR for at least 2 out of 4 PTs. The materials sent mimic biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

SPECIAL FEATURES

EQA incompatible with the Rapid Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing method (RAST) directly from positive blood culture bottles.

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 89** 'Blood culture – fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85A** 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'
- **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 118C** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - RAST method'

PROGRAMME 85A: BLOOD CULTURE - QUALITATIVE CULTURE

Blood containing a pathogenic strain for the detection of a bacteraemia or fungaemia (presence/absence).

€ 287 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

60 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 40 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	**6**	7	**8**	9	10	**11**	12
Test		**26M85A.1**				**26M85A.2**		**26M85A.3**			**26M85A.4**	

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Bacteraemia/ fungaemia : detection of bacterial or fungal growth, time-to-positivity

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Two batches of samples are sent out to validate the detection of bacterial or fungal growth but also to prove the control of non-contamination of the samples.

A statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity is assigned.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 89** 'Blood culture - fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85** 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 118C** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - RAST method'

PROGRAMME 87: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID BACTERIOLOGY: CULTURE AND PCR

Synthetic cerebrospinal fluid containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).

€ 310 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

53 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 80 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - CEREBROSPINAL FLUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test		**26M87.1**							**26M87.2**			

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification by culture and/or PCR, AST*, resistance phenotype [1]

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English

Bacteriology:
- Enumeration of colonies (z-score and ranking) to check that there is no tendency for underestimation leading to absence of detection at the detection threshold.
- Assessment of the strain's identification.
- AST: assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antibiotics.
- Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Cytology: assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR for at least 1 out of 2 PTs. The materials sent mimic biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 131** 'Manual cytology - Approach to measurement uncertainties'

PROGRAMME 88: BACTERIOLOGY OF BRONCHOPULMONARY SAMPLES

Synthetic matrices containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis.

€ 269 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

46 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 70 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - SAMPLES SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test		**26M88.1**							**26M88.2**			

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification by culture and/or PCR[1], AST*, resistance phenotype[1]
[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English

The type of sampling (endobronchial or endotracheal aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavages, sputum) and a guidance about the bacteria cultivation will be provided in the instructions of each test.

Evaluation of the bacterial count (z-score and ranking) enabling to assess whether the bacterial load is above or below the significance threshold depending on the type of sampling. For the sputum, the additional step of fluidification can lead to a significant bias that must be controlled.

Overview of the semi-quantification by PCR.

AST: assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antibiotics.

Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR[1]. The materials sent mimic biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 117A '**Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

PROGRAMME 89: BLOOD CULTURE - FUNGAEMIA: CULTURE AND PCR

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for fungal analysis.

€ 292 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

65 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 75 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	26M89.1									26M89.2		

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Fungaemia: detection, identification by culture and/or PCR, time-to-positivity, antifungal susceptibility testing, resistance phenotype[1]

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity.

Laboratories participating in these EQA should treat the samples with the method implemented in routine. Laboratories process the samples with specific flasks/media or with standard bacteriology flasks both aerobic and anaerobic.

Antifungal susceptibility testing: assignment of errors (minor, major or very major) for the most tested antifungals.
Resistance phenotype: overview and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR for at least 1 out of the 2 EQAs. The materials sent mimic biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 85** 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis : culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85A** 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'

PROGRAMME 119: SCREENING OF *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE* OR STREPTOCOCCUS B

Detection of group B streptococcus using culture and/or rapid method from swabs (synthetic matrix) presenting different concentration levels.

€ 193 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

12 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR: SWABS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	**1**	2	3	4	5	6	7	**8**	9	10	11	12
Test	**26M119.1**							**26M119.2**				

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Streptococcus B detection

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 swabs with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” of the results obtained by culture or by rapid method (antigens or gene amplification).

Evaluation of the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by assigning errors (minor, major, very major).

PROGRAMME 117: BACTERIOLOGY - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN NEUTRAL SOLUTION - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Neutral solution containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

€ 66 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

36 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 4 YEARS

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	**26M117.1**								**26M117.2**			

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

PROGRAMME 117A: BACTERAEMIA - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN BLOOD - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Human blood containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

€ 68 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

20 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**11**	12
Test		**26M117A.1**									**26M117A.2**	

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'

PROGRAMME 118: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION - DISK METHOD

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation, for each antibiotic tested

€ 192 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

21 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 4 YEARS

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10	11	**12**
Test						**26M118.1**						**26M118.2**

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Receipt of a neutral solution contaminated with an identified strain, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by diffusion (list of antibiotics defined by AGLAE).

Several evaluations are provided for each antibiotic:

- evaluation of the measurement of inhibition zone diameters,
- assignment of errors,
- evaluation of clinical categories considering the dispersion around the diameter and rules for interpretative reading.

All assessments, as well as overall trend indicators and resistance phenotype determination, are considered in assigning a final ranking based on the overall quality of the analysis.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators or analytical equipment: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

- **Programme 118A** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)'
- **Programme 118B** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - broth microdilution method'
- **Programme 118C** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - RAST method'

PROGRAMME 118A: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION – GRADIENT METHOD (MIC STRIPS)

Measurements of MIC and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation, for each antibiotic tested

€ 130 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

25 participants in 2025 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

1 TEST AVAILABLE / YEAR - SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test									**26M118A.1**			

⚠ Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Receipt of a dish of agar medium containing a strain of *Neisseria meningitidis**, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by application of MIC strips (Amoxicillin - Ceftriaxone - Cefotaxime - Rifampicin - Ciprofloxacin – Chloramphenicol – Penicillin G).

For each antibiotic tested: reading of the MIC, report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation.

**Subject to technical changes. In the event of a change, this will be communicated to you at least 3 months before the sample dispatch date.*

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 118** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method'
- **Programme 118B** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - Broth microdilution method'
- **Programme 118C** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - RAST method'

PROGRAMME 118B: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING – BROTH MICRODILUTION METHOD

Measurements of MIC and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation, for each antibiotic tested

€ 130 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

New in 2026

2 TESTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	**5**	6	7	8	9	10	**11**	12
Test					**26M118B.1**						**26M118B.2**	

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and report of clinical categories, with and without interpretation

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Suitable for UMIC, SENSITITRE, VITEK methods. Open for others broth microdilution methods. Assessments provided subject to a sufficient number of users.

2 EQAs: 1 EQA with a Gram-positive strain and 1 EQA with a Gram-negative strain.

Receipt of a neutral solution or broth agar medium containing an identified strain, accompanied by a clinical scenario.
Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and determination of the MIC with the broth microdilution method (list of antibiotics defined by AGLAE).

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 118** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method'
- **Programme 118A** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)'
- **Programme 118C** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - RAST method'

PROGRAMME 118C: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING – RAST METHOD

Rapid Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing from positive blood tests.

€ 192 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

New in 2026

1 TEST AVAILABLE / YEAR: BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test						**26M118C.1**						

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse for each EQA

Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters and clinical categories at 4h, 6h, 8h or from 16h to 20h

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Receipt of a blood culture tube containing an identified strain, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Inoculation of a blood culture broth and determination of inhibition diameters (list of antibiotics defined by AGLAE). Inhibition diameters can be reported according to the laboratory's analytical practices: after 4 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours or 16 to 20 hours of incubation.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 118** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method'
- **Programme 118A** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)'
- **Programme 118B** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - broth microdilution method'

PROGRAMME 131: MANUAL CYTOLOGY - APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTIES

Biological liquid for cytological examination after reconstitution with a concentrate.

€ 154 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

14 participants in 2025 – EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR

1 TEST AVAILABLE / YEAR – BIOLOGICAL LIQUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

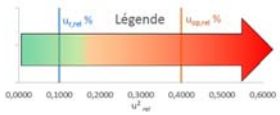
Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test			**26M131.1**									

Please check the registration deadline prior to shipment: general schedule of the tests.

Parameters to analyse
Enumeration of red and white blood cells

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

- Receipt of 2 samples composed each of 2 tubes of 7 mL of biological fluid and concentrates ; after reconstitution, each of the two samples have different cellular concentrations levels of leukocytes and red blood cells.
- Enumeration of 2 counting wells per operator → *Obtain repeatability indicator*
- Maximum number of operators requested (up to 9) → *Obtain inter-operator indicator*
- Repeatability and inter-operator indicators are presented in graphic form to be monitored over time.
- Evaluation of analytical performance (z-scores) per operator considering inter-laboratory error.
- An overall assessment is assigned when at least 10 analytical results have been evaluated, based on the percentage of “satisfactory” analyses obtained during the test.



SPECIAL FEATURES

- The number of cells counted per square is required to check the correct homogenisation of the tube before analysis.
- Different counting cells can be used (Kova slides, Kova Glasstic, Malassez, Fast read, ...).
- To enable analysis by as many operators as possible, 2 tubes per sample are sent for analysis on two different half-days (1 tube per half-day), keeping the samples cool between each reading.