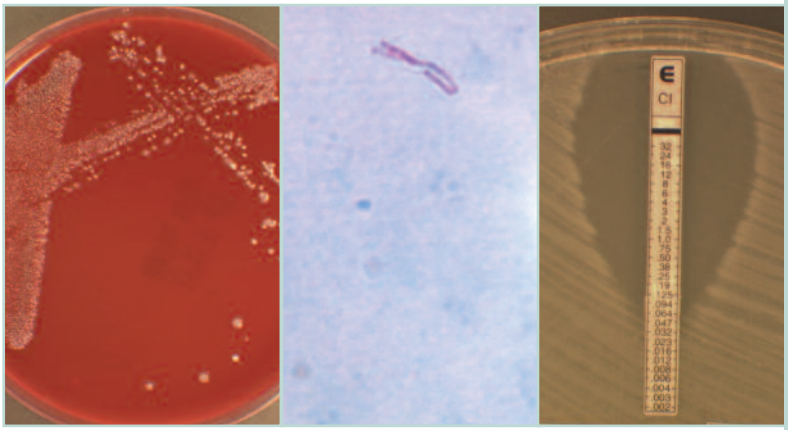
Bacteriology Schemes

These schemes are suitable for all clinical diagnostic laboratories that undertake routine bacteriology, isolation, identification, microscopy and susceptibility testing.

There are also some schemes designed to cater for those laboratories carrying out molecular testing.

UK NEQAS for Microbiology, operated by Public Health England, is a UKAS accredited Proficiency Testing Provider No. 4715. Please see the schedule for details.



Scheme	Examinations	Sample format	No. of distributions per year	No. of samples per distribution	Scoring
AAFB microscopy	Presence and absence of AAFB bacilli using ZN or immunofluorescence	Fixed smear of sputum	3	4	Presence or absence of AAFB bacilli
Antimicrobial susceptibility	Determination of antimicrobial susceptibilities to the appropriate antibiotics according to clinical site stated	Freeze dried pure cultures	12	2	Susceptibility profile results interpreted as susceptible, intermediate and resistant
Clostridium difficile	Detection of toxigenic *Clostridium difficile* Typing results are collected but not scored	Simulated freeze dried liquid faecal samples	4	2	Presence of toxigenic *C. difficile* and /or toxin
Community medicine	Isolation and identification of bacterial pathogens Susceptibility testing of pure cultures Clinical details are provided with each specimen Suitable for conventional and molecular methods	Two freeze dried simulated clinical specimens for identification and two freeze dried pure cultures for susceptibility	4	4	Organisms are classified as core or advanced with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens Susceptibility profile results interpreted as susceptible, intermediate and resistant
Faecal pathogens	Isolation and identification Clinical details are provided with each specimen. Provided as a start-up scheme for a laboratory examining this sample type and new to EQA participation	Simulated freeze dried faecal specimens	1	4	Organisms are classified as core or advanced with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens
General bacteriology	Isolation and identification of bacterial pathogens Suitable for conventional, molecular and MALDI-ToF MS Clinical details are provided with each specimen	Simulated freeze dried clinical specimens	12	3	Organisms are classified as core or advanced with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens
Genital pathogens	Isolation, identification, and if appropriate determination of antimicrobial susceptibilities Clinical details are provided with each specimen	Simulated freeze dried genital clinical specimens	3	2	Organisms are classified as core or advanced with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens Susceptibility profile results interpreted as susceptible, intermediate and resistant

Continued on next page

Bacteriology Schemes

Scheme	Examinations	Sample format	No. of distributions per year	No. of samples per distribution	Scoring
Molecular detection and resistance testing of mycobacteria	Direct and post culture detection of mycobacteria and rifampicin resistance genes using molecular methods Genotyping results are also collated and presented for in-house comparisons but not scored	Freeze dried simulated sputum	3	2	Presence or absence of *Mycobacteria* and rifampicin resistance
Molecular detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* & *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*	Detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* & *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*	Simulated endocervical swab and urine	3	4	Presence or absence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* & *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
MRSA screening	Detection of MRSA by conventional and molecular method	Simulated freeze dried clinical specimens	4	2	Presence or absence of MRSA
Mycobacterium culture	Detection of mycobacteria by culture	Freeze dried simulated sputum	3	4	Presence or absence of a *Mycobacterium* sp.
Urinary antigens	Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* and *pneumococcal* antigens in urine	Urine	3	3	Presence or absence of *Legionella pneumophila* and *pneumococcal* antigens