

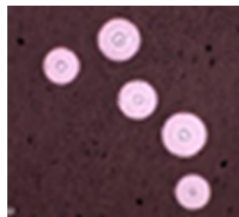
NEW MYCOLOGY SCHEME (from April 2018)

Cryptococcal antigen detection

Cryptococcus antigen (CrAg) detection is the standard first line test for diagnosing Cryptococcosis, a fungal infection caused by *Cryptococcus neoformans*. Serological tests have become the standard method for the diagnosis of cryptococcosis, latex agglutination and enzyme immunoassay are predominant in clinical diagnostic and reference laboratories whilst the lateral flow assay is commonly used as a point of care test for CrAg.

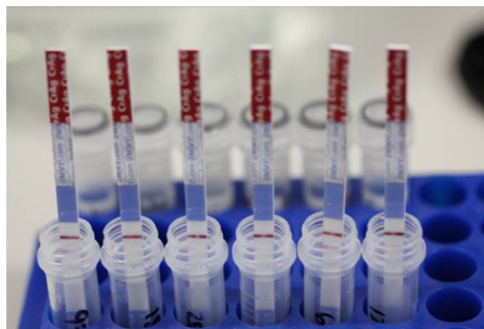
Serum, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) are the most appropriate clinical specimens for detecting circulating CrAg, in turn generating rapid results which influence better patient prognosis and patient care.

Following a positive response to the cryptococcal antigen detection questionnaire delivered in October 2016 and subsequent successful pilot distributions throughout 2017-2018, UK NEQAS for Microbiology will introduce the Cryptococcal antigen detection EQA scheme live from April 2018.



Cryptococcal antigen detection

- 3 distributions per year containing 2 specimens
- Each distribution will contain specimens to be tested for the presence or absence of the cryptococcal antigen (CrAg)
- Specimens will be scored on overall qualitative detection (positive or negative)
- Specimen format will be liquid human serum, simulated CSF or BAL.
- Country-specific performance will be available where there are greater than 10 participants in a country
- Three week period for examination and reporting results



For further information, please contact the Bacteriology Scheme Manager at the above address or alternatively Tel: +44 (0) 208 905 9890 or Email: organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk