



WELSH ASSESSMENT OF SEROLOGICAL PROFICIENCY SCHEME

AIM

The exercise is designed to test an individual's ability to perform compatibility testing techniques. This includes the preparation of appropriate red cell suspensions, the actual setting up of the exercise tests and reading of the results.

DISEASE MARKERS:

The donations used in this exercise have been tested at source and found negative for the mandatory microbiological tests required by UK Blood Transfusion Services at the time of donation. No known test methods can offer assurances that products derived from human blood will not transmit infectious disease. The containers and contents must be handled and discarded in line with laboratory policy for potentially infectious material.

RESULTS SUBMISSION:

Results forms are distributed to participants with each exercise and are available to download on the scheme website. Results must be submitted by the deadline given on the 'Instructions for Use' sheet (WASPS/009).

SAMPLE HANDLING:

All samples are shipped at ambient temperature and must be tested as soon as possible after receipt. Sample quality must be reported to the scheme on the cumulative results sheet (WASPS/010). In the event of any breakages/insufficient reagent, replacements may be obtained by contacting the scheme.

UPON RECEIPT STORE EXERCISE MATERIALS AT 2-8°C

SERUM SAMPLES:

Sodium azide (~ 0.1%) has been added to the antisera as an anti- microbial agent, this may be toxic if ingested and may react with lead and copper plumbing to form explosive compounds, on disposal flush with large volumes of water.

BLOOD SAMPLES:

Red cell samples are derived from blood donations and are re-suspended in Modified Alsevers solution containing antibiotics to a concentration of 2.5 – 3.5%. Laboratories must ensure that these are modified in line with the manufacturer's recommendations for the manual technology in use.

Further details about the scheme are available in the participant manual (www.waspsqa.org.uk).