



What's New in 2024



Anatomical Pathology Discipline



Program Changes:

- The rotating diagnostic specialist programs are 'Endocrine' and 'Haematopathology'.
- The Paediatric Diagnostic program will increase from 10 to 12 samples in 2024.
- The Immunohistochemistry Breast Markers Audit will open in January and close in April. This is different to previous years where the audit was open for 6 months. This shorter open period is to enable laboratories to take timely action on non-conformances.
- RCPAQAP continues to collaborate with the International Quality Network for Pathology (IQNPath) for Biomarker read-out proficiency testing including PD-L1. [The portal can be accessed here.](#)
- **FISH Diagnostic:** The probe for 2024 will be 1p/19q.
- **Brightfield ISH (BRISH) Technical Program:** The additional module offered is Lambda Light Chain in situ hybridisation.
- **Technical General:** Will include a Fungi special stain and Trichrome special stain
- **Sarcoma Gene Testing:** The tests will be PAX3 and NTRK
- **Neuropathology Immunohistochemistry and Technical:** The tests will be IDH-1 and Retic
- **Immunohistochemistry Lymphoma Markers:** The tests will be: Cyclin D1 (alternate SOX11), MUM1 (alternate CD138), CD4 (alternate PD1)
- **Immunohistochemistry Mismatch Repair (MMR) protein:** The tests will be MLH1 and PMS2 on colorectal carcinoma and a second tissue type
- **Immunohistochemistry General:** The tests will be BRAF (alternate SOX10); OCT (3/4) (alternate CD117); INSM1 (alternate S100)
- **Immunohistochemistry Breast Markers:** The tests will be ER, PR, HER2 IHC, p40, e-Cadherin

Upcoming Webinar:

An educational webinar will be held towards the end of 2023. This webinar will incorporate a special stain and immunohistochemistry educational session.

Biosecurity Discipline



New Program:

- SSBA eLearning module for Exotic Flaviviruses will be added to the suite of eLearning modules for Biosecurity in 2024.

Upcoming Workshop:

- A follow-up workshop following the Whole Genome Sequencing Module will be offered in May 2024.

Chemical Pathology Discipline



New Measurand:

- **Special Drugs: Anti-Fungals** - Isovuconazole will be added

New Programs:

- **Special Drugs: Everolimus:** 12 surveys / 2 samples per survey. Lyophilised whole blood. With guidance from the Special Drug Advisory Committee, this material has been developed to allow the full range of concentration for Everolimus to be assessed without interference from Sirolimus.
- **Lactate Meters:** 4 surveys / 2 samples per survey. Liquid Lactate Solution. This program is suitable for any Point-of-care device used to test lactate.

Recently Released Programs:

- **Urea Breath Test:** This program is suitable for the assessment of C-14 in a human breath sample.
- **Calprotectin:** Suitable for Faecal Calprotectin and Pancreatic Elastase qualitative and quantitative methods.
- **Renal Calculi:** Suitable for identification of renal stone composition.

Program Changes:

- **Sweat Testing:** Sweat conductivity no longer available as a reportable measurand.
- **Endocrine Special:** New measurands Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), 21-Deoxycortisol and % post PEG Prolactin (option to report the calculated recovery).
- **Liquid Serum chemistry:** New reportable measurands IgA, IgM, IgG and Procalcitonin.
- **Serum Indices:** Qualitative measurands will now be assessed.
- **Body Fluids:** Sodium and Potassium will no longer be included as reportable measurands in the program.
- **Foetal Fibronectin:** This program will now be 4 surveys of 1 sample.
- **Special Lipids:** Improved analytical range for Lipoprotein.
- **PoCT Troponin and HCG:** Troponin to be assessed by measurement system.
- **C Reactive Protein:** Change from lyophilised to liquid as was previously available.
- **HbA1c:** Change in lyophilised material to accommodate the Siemens Atellica enzymatic assay.

Cytopathology Discipline



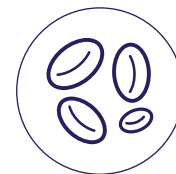
Program Changes:

- The Non-gynaecological Specialty program will consist of lymph node samples in 2024.
- The Technical program will be a Romanowsky staining exercise of a non-gynaecological sample.
- The Gynaecological programs assessment mapping document is subject to change in 2024.

Upcoming Webinar:

An educational webinar will be held towards the end of 2023. This webinar will incorporate a gynaecological presentation featuring the poorer performing areas of squamous cell abnormalities and respiratory cytopathology.

Haematology Discipline



Recently Released Programs:

- **Activated Clotting Time:** 2 surveys per year / 2 samples per survey. Lyophilised plasma. Used for monitoring intra, post operative, or clinical heparin anticoagulation. Allows for guidance of administration and reversal of unfractionated heparin.
- **Alifax ESR:** Suitable for Alifax instrument only. 2 surveys per year / 2 samples per survey. Stabilised blood. Dispatched separately to all other programs. Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), although non-specific, is used primarily for monitoring or checking for inflammation or infection. This program is specific for the Alifax instruments, samples are non latex based providing better performance assessment.
- **Automated Differential Option 5:** For DxH 500 series instruments. 4 surveys per year / 2 samples per survey. Stabilised whole blood. Separate, stand alone program for assessment of White cell differential count for laboratories using Beckman Coulter DxH500/520 instruments.

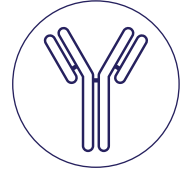
Program Changes:

- **Malarial Parasite Rapid Diagnostic Test:**
 - Change in survey processing instructions
 - Check survey instructions before processing samples
 - An additional whole blood sample will be included with the malaria protein samples

Programs in Development:

- Viable CD34
- Reticulocytes program – RET-He, IRF, CHR

Immunology Discipline



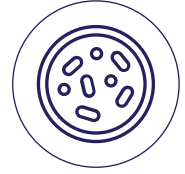
Program Changes:

- **High Sensitivity CRP:** High Sensitivity CRP material will be provided liquid stable.
- **Immunophenotyping – Immunodeficiency:**
 1. Reporting absolute counts in 'cells/ μ l'.
 - A new reporting unit, 'cells/ μ l', will be available for all lymphocyte subset absolute counts.
 - The additional reporting unit will be available for selection from the drop-down list in the lymphocyte subset absolute count result entry field, in the myQAP portal.
 - A background conversion factor will be applied to the 'cells/ μ l' unit for comparison with the default unit, ' $\times 10^9$ cells/L.
 - Results and APS will be displayed in the report in the same units as selected in the result entry field in the myQAP portal.
 - The 'CD3+/CD4+ Lymphocytes (Numbers/ μ l)' measurand will be replaced by the additional unit 'cells/ μ l' option in the 'CD3+/CD4+ Lymphocytes (Absolute Counts)' measurand.
 2. Monocyte exclusion gating:
 - An additional method will be added to the 'Gating Strategy' method category: CD45 and monocyte exclusion gating (CD3-/CD4+).
 - This method will be reflected in the Gating Strategy youden plot for peer comparison.
 - Neuronal Antibodies/Paraneoplastic antibodies will be updated to neuronal antibodies in the myQAP portal and Neuronal Antibodies report.
 - **Tissue Antibodies:** Anti-smooth muscle antibodies specific pattern reporting, including SMA-T and SMA-V, will be enabled in the myQAP portal. Anti-smooth muscle antibodies specific pattern reporting will be provided for information only and not assessed. An additional result entry option, 'Atypical', will be enabled for reporting of Mitochondrial, Smooth Muscle, Liver Kidney Microsomal, and Parietal Cell Antibodies measurands.

New Packaging:

- Program material packaging has been changed to reduce use of plastic pouches in accordance with our commitment to environmental sustainability. All program aliquots are now placed in a sealed bag printed with program identification. Upon receipt of your delivery store program material according to instructions printed on the sealed bag. We welcome feedback regarding this new packaging.

Microbiology Discipline



New Programs:

- **Detection of Antimicrobial Resistance:** 5 samples per survey / 2 surveys per year. Lyophilised sample. This program is suitable for laboratories that perform routine bacteriology and/or surveillance screening for resistant bacteria and fungi that may cause hospital outbreaks. The program will include Gram-negative, Gram-positive bacteria and yeast species.
- **Detection of Mycobacterium chimaera in Heater-Cooler Units:** 4 samples / 1 survey per year. Lyophilised sample. This program is suitable for laboratories performing microbiological and molecular testing for the detection of Mycobacterium chimaera in simulated water samples.
- **Molecular Strongyloides:** 3 samples per survey / 2 surveys per year. Lyophilised sample. This program is suitable for laboratories performing molecular testing for the detection of Strongyloides in simulated faeces samples.
- **Molecular HSV/VZV:** 6 samples per survey / 2 surveys per year. Liquid sample. This program is suitable for laboratories performing molecular testing for the detection of HSV and VZV in simulated vesicle fluid, using single and multiplex assays.

Program Changes:

- Our range of Molecular Infectious Diseases Programs include syndromic testing covering Respiratory Pathogens, Gastrointestinal Pathogens (Bacteria, Viruses, Parasites), Sexually Transmitted Pathogens, CSF Pathogens and Vaccine Preventable Pathogens. This will be further expanded to include a combined program for Molecular HSV/VZV, reflecting this new approach to rapid diagnosis. The single analyte programs for Molecular HSV and Molecular Varicella Zoster will be discontinued.
- The multi-drug resistant Gram-negative bacteria and Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci programs will be discontinued and replaced by our new AMR program.
- Difficult/Blood culture QAP survey has changed its name to “Blood culture” survey. The frequency of 8 surveys per year will be reduced to 4 per year from 2024.
- Bacterial serotyping QAP: Frequency of 4 surveys per year will be reduced to 2 per year from 2024.

Upcoming Workshop:

- Parasitology, April 2024. Further details to follow.

Molecular Genetics Discipline



New Program:

- **Lymphoid NGS Panel Testing:** 1 survey / 1 sample. DNA sample. This module qualitatively assesses laboratory performance in the detection and reporting of various genes associated with lymphoid haematological malignancy using next generation sequencing.

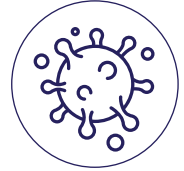
Program Changes:

- Survey frequency for Thalassaemia is reduced to 2 surveys per year (2 samples per survey).
- Clinical interpretation list options revised for Hereditary Haemochromatosis.
- Assessment of variant allele frequency for:
 - Mutation Detection in Colorectal Cancer
 - Mutation Detection in Lung Cancer
 - Mutation Detection in Melanoma
 - Molecular Testing in Glioma

Pilot Programs in Development:

- Interpretive EQA for Genomic Testing
- Lung Cancer Panel Testing
- Carrier screening (CF, Fragile X, SMA)
- Myeloid NGS Panel Testing
- Glioma Panel Testing
- Neuromuscular Disorder Panel Testing

Serology Discipline



Program Changes:

- Serology programs with multiple measurands, for example, Chlamydia Genus, Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies, Epstein Barr Virus, Flavivirus, Legionella Antibodies, Leptospirosis, Q-Fever, Rickettsia and Syphilis, now display results as stacked bar graphs. This replaces individual histograms, facilitating report interpretation.
- Brucella Program aliquot volume will change from 500 μ L to 300 μ L
- QuantiFERON (TB and CMV) - this program enables reporting of both the tuberculosis and cytomegalovirus interferon gamma assays. Samples can be used for testing and reporting both assays. The sample volume for the aliquots has been updated to 500 μ L lyophilised, with reconstitution to 500 μ L.
- Legionella Ag program: Legionella Urine Antigen measurand will be replaced with Legionella urinary L. pneumophila Antigen and Legionella urinary L. longbeachae Antigen measurands.

New packaging:

- Program material packaging has been changed to reduce use of plastic pouches in accordance with our commitment to environmental sustainability. All program aliquots are now placed in a sealed bag printed with program identification. Upon receipt of your delivery store program material according to instructions printed on the sealed bag. We welcome feedback regarding this new packaging.

Transfusion Discipline



Program Changes:

- From 2024, the Antibody Titre program will enable reporting of the brand of indicator cells used for the anti-D titration. This will allow the myQAP Analytics functionality to include and display data for the brands of indicator cells used.

Recently Released Programs:

- **ABO Titration:** 4 samples per survey / 2 surveys per year. Plasma and red cells samples. Designed for laboratories that perform Bone Marrow, Renal and other transplants using ABO mismatched donors.

Pilot Program in Development:

- Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn Investigation.



Portal Upgrades & Developments

The customer portal continues to undergo a series of improvements to enhance your experience and better manage your interactions with us.

We want to keep you informed every step of the way as these enhancements are rolled out. As each new feature becomes available, we will notify you promptly to ensure you can benefit from these upgrades. [Latest updates are posted here.](#)