



UK NEQAS Reproductive Science
Department of Reproductive Medicine
Saint Mary's Hospital
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9WL
United Kingdom
Email: repscience@uknegas.org.uk
Phone: +44 (0)161 276 6437

Terms and Conditions of Participation UK NEQAS for Reproductive Science

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1. The UK National External Quality Assessment Services for Reproductive Science (UK NEQAS Reproductive Science), herein referred to as *the Scheme*, is hosted by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT), which acts as the legal entity.
2. All samples distributed as part of the Scheme must be treated, handled, and disposed of as if they were clinical specimens. Participants are responsible for ensuring their laboratory facilities and staff are adequately equipped and trained to safely handle such materials.
3. Scheme participation is continuous from year to year unless the Scheme Organiser is informed in writing of withdrawal. The membership period runs from 1 April to 31 March annually. Participants joining mid-year may be eligible for a pro-rata fee based on the remaining period of the Scheme year. Withdrawal from the Scheme can occur at any time, but no refund of fees already paid will be given. The full annual fee remains applicable unless formal written notification of withdrawal is received before the start of the Scheme year.
4. UK NEQAS Reproductive Science reserves the right to amend the design of the Scheme during the year and may suspend services where provision depends on the availability of clinical materials.
5. Each participating laboratory will be assigned a unique UK NEQAS code number, consistent across UK NEQAS centres. Participation, identifiable raw data, and performance scores are confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties, except in line with agreed mechanisms for managing performance concerns. All UK-based participants providing clinical services are subject to the Royal College of Pathologists Quality Assurance Pathology Committee (QAPC) conditions of EQA Scheme participation. Participants may share their own performance data with clients but not for promotional or advertising purposes.
6. All reports and associated data issued by the Scheme are copyright protected and may not be published, distributed, or used for promotional purposes without written permission from the Scheme Organiser.
7. Failure to pay membership fees by the due date may result in termination of Scheme participation without notice, and MFT reserves the right to recover any outstanding fees for services already provided.



- 8.** MFT and UK NEQAS Reproductive Science accept no liability for indirect or consequential loss, including (but not limited to) loss of profit, business opportunity, reputation, or third-party claims, however arising.
- 9.** Participants bear full responsibility for the handling and use of all samples received, including any related activities performed by themselves or third parties, from the moment of receipt.
- 10.** Overseas Participants are responsible to make UK NEQAS aware, in writing of any additional import or Customs rules or fees.
- 11.** MFT and UK NEQAS Reproductive Science warrant that all services provided under the Scheme will be performed with reasonable care and skill. To the extent permitted by law, all other warranties, terms, and conditions (implied by statute, common law, or otherwise) are excluded.
- 12.** The total liability of MFT and UK NEQAS Reproductive Science to a participant in any Scheme year shall not exceed the value of the annual fee paid by that participant for the same period.
- 13.** By completing our enrolment form, or our renewal form, you authorise UK NEQAS to handle your personal data in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)
- 14.** Participant data provided to UK NEQAS Reproductive Science will be used solely for the administration of Scheme participation and handled in accordance with our Privacy Policy, which is available on the UK NEQAS Reproductive Science website.
- 15.** Participation in the Scheme does not constitute evidence that a laboratory meets recognised national or international technical standards (e.g., WHO, ISO, HFEA, ARCS).
- 16.** Collusion between participants and falsification of results are strictly prohibited.
- 17.** Participants will be notified of changes to the Scheme's design or operation by email, with details also reflected in the Participants' Handbook.
- 18.** These terms and conditions shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England. Both MFT and the participant agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.