

Performance Monitoring System for the JAK2 p.Val617Phe (V617F) Mutation Status Programme

Aim

The scoring system is a rolling scheme that will identify unsatisfactory performance or persistent unsatisfactory performance of any participant. This is in order that UK NEQAS LI can provide support and guidance where needed and ensure that the Genetics National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel (NQAAP) are informed as appropriate. Please note that each programme will be scored independently.

Outline

Two samples are issued for each trial that may or may not feature a JAK2 p.Val617Phe (V617F) mutated clone. There are three trials per annum. The JAK2 p.Val617Phe (V617F) Mutation Status trial requires a qualitative response from participants; participants are asked if, using their normal laboratory technique, they detect the presence/absence of the p.Val617Phe (V617F) mutation. The presence/absence of the JAK2 mutation is determined from the consensus of all participants' results (modal result).

Each participant response is then compared against the consensus results. If the participant is out of consensus for one or both sample(s) a critical (unsatisfactory) status is awarded for that trial. Non returns will result in an immediate critical status for that trial. If a participant is awarded two critical statuses out of three trials issued, then their overall status will escalate to persistent unsatisfactory performance.

Unsatisfactory performance will be initially communicated to participants on their trial report. This will be followed by an email and notification on the Participant Hub, highlighting that their performance was unsatisfactory on the last trial, and offering support and guidance. The support and guidance offered will be tailored to the particular needs of the participant but may include the provision of repeat/additional samples plus telephone, email or face-to-face communications. If a participant's status is elevated to persistent unsatisfactory performance then a further email will be issued highlighting this and, for UK based laboratories, the Genetics NQAAP panel informed.

Participant's results will be reviewed by the lead scientist and any UK participant may, at the discretion of the Director and Specialist Advisory Group chairperson, be referred Genetics NQAAP even if they have not met the criteria for persistent unsatisfactory performance in any individual EQA.

Please note that the JAK2 p.Val617Phe (V617F) Mutation Status Programme now offers the opportunity to submit quantitative data for each trial sample. Robust statistics (robust mean and robust standard deviation) are calculated from this data and z-scores are provided for submitting participants. However, it is important to note that currently these z-scores are provided for information only; official trial performance is based solely on qualitative results.

As with all scoring systems it is important to note that these will be constantly reviewed to determine if they are providing the information required. The Director of the scheme retains the discretion to determine if any individual trial should not be scored.

Uncontrolled Copy