The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) International External Quality Assessment Scheme (IEQAS) Program was launched in 2004 to monitor and improve laboratory performance in hemophilia treatment centres (HTC) worldwide. Laboratories can participate in this scheme to assess their quality assurance systems and the reliability of their test results.

IEQAS improves and standardizes laboratory diagnosis by auditing the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance systems in place and giving a measure of a laboratory’s competence.

The scheme is operated by the United Kingdom’s National External Quality Assessment Scheme (UK NEQAS) for Blood Coagulation, based in Sheffield, UK. It has been inspected by United Kingdom Accreditation Service Ltd (UKAS) and has been granted full accreditation to ISO 17043 for all listed tests.

Registered Participants as of 2017
Total number of registrations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HTC</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>different countries worldwide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centres in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

For further information on the IEQAS Program please visit the WFH website at: www.wfh.org/en/ieqas or email us at ieqas@wfh.org

The IEQAS Program is supported by funding from Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation.
PARTICIPATION

Registration is open to all laboratories worldwide which are involved in hemophilia care. The WFH offers sponsorship to some laboratories in developing countries. Please contact the WFH IEQAS Program Officer (ieqas@wfh.org) to register as a fee-paying user or to discuss sponsorship.

IEQAS BLOOD COAGULATION

The following tests are covered in the IEQAS Blood Coagulation Program:

- Prothrombin Time (PT), Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT)
- Fibrinogen evaluation
- Factor II assay
- Factor V assay
- Factor VII assay
- Factor VIII:C assay
- Factor IX:C assay
- Factor X assay
- Factor XI assay
- von Willebrand factor antigen assay
- VWF:Ristocetin Cofactor activity assay
- VWF:Collagen Binding activity assay

Other samples may be distributed as supplementary exercises, whenever possible, under guidance from the IEQAS steering committee (for example FXIII assay and FVIII Inhibitor samples).

Three surveys are distributed per year in March, July, and November and results can be returned by email or through the secure UK NEQAS website using a participant specific password. After the closing date, the results are analysed and a median value is calculated for each test. The participants’ results are compared to the median value and a report is produced for each user showing their results, the median value and the difference between these two values.

Participation in the program is kept strictly confidential between the user and the program organisers. Sponsored centres are required to share their data with the WFH. Centres that may experience technical difficulties with any testing are actively encouraged to contact the UK NEQAS or the WFH for help and advice.