



PC-1033

IAMM-EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME

CMC MICRO EQAS

Department of Clinical Microbiology, 8th Floor, ASHA Building,
Christian Medical College, Vellore-632004, Tamil Nadu

Brochure - 2024



Dear Participants,

Greetings,

We take this opportunity to Thank you all for your support in our NABL accredited EQAS program over the last seven years.

Our aim is to validate the competency of the participating centers in India and abroad in the hope of ensuring standardized Microbiology diagnostic capability.

The **Tier 1 EQAS program** for the diagnostic laboratory assesses the diagnostic competency in bacteriology smear reporting, identification of organisms from culture and susceptibility testing along with infectious disease serology testing. It consists of 27 challenges per year which is sent in 3 rounds of 9 challenges each.

The **Tier 2 EQAS program** assesses the laboratory molecular diagnostic competency. It consists of 4 schemes: syndromic-based pathogen identifications, virulence and antimicrobial resistance determination and culture-based population analysis profiling.

For our new enrollers, The Microbiology and Virology accreditation process by NABL has been done as two separate and distinct programs. Therefore, **the registration and payments** must be done separately as well.

For Microbiology enrollments visit the link <http://www.microbiology.iammeqascmc.org/> and for Virology enrollments visit the following link <http://www.virology.iammeqascmc.org/>. The samples and results will also be sent to the participants separately.

If you wish to continue with the EQAS program, kindly ensure that you renew your registration for the year 2024 begins on **December 1, 2023 and continues until the end of February, 2024**. New enrollments are welcome from participants who wish to join the EQAS program newly for the year 2024.

We request all participants to register online via the link provided above. The annual registration payment can be made on-line through our payment gateway on our website. We encourage our participants to use on-line portal for payment.

Wishing each of you a prosperous 2024

With Best Wishes

Balaji Veeraraghavan, MD, FRCP, Ph.D
Co-ordinator IAMM EQAS Microbiology
Department of Clinical Microbiology
Christian Medical College, Vellore 4

Ph: **0416-228 2588 / 8778867546**

Email: eqas@cmcvellore.ac.in

WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Eem9QNOHO1R7YMcSU42JaN>

Twitter account: twitter @microeqas.

Instructions for Before Enrollment

1. Any laboratories that perform bacteriological/serological testing is eligible to participate in this program.
2. Please use the official or designated email id for enrollment. All correspondence would be sent ONLY to this email id.
3. There should be a designated contact person with whom we can correspond should any query arise
4. Please inform the IAMM EQAS office of any change in contact details immediately.
5. All communications must be addressed to The IAMM EQAS Coordinator, CMCMicroEQAS, Department of Clinical Microbiology, 8th floor ASHA building, Christian Medical College, Vellore-632004

Information's:

1. The bacteriological/serological proficiency testing packages will be dispatched in the month of February, June and October.
2. The molecular proficiency testing packages will be dispatched in the month of June and October.
3. Both hard copies and soft copies of your reports need to be sent for evaluation.
4. The Evaluation Reports will be sent with the succeeding package.
5. A participant must participate in at least two of the three challenges per year to be eligible for the annual participation certificate.

The Registration Procedure is as follows

Those **already registered** with us and would like to enroll for the 2023 cycle can use the existing username and password to enter the website, chose the necessary panels and proceed with payment.

Those **enrolling for the 1st time**

1. Visit our website: <https://www.microbiology.iammeqascmc.org/>
2. Should register by clicking on the “enrollment” icon.
3. Enter the necessary details.
4. A message of “Successful registration” will be displayed & an email will be sent to the email address entered
5. To complete the process: Click the link provided in the email & proceed to the website.
6. On the website: Login through Login ID (email) & Password through the website followed by selection of necessary panels.
7. You can then proceed with the payment.

Note:

1. During registration, your username is your email ID is required. Therefore, please use the official mail / permanent mail ID for registration and all correspondence, as information would be addressed only to this mail. Lab ID for Microbiology starts with M and for Virology is V.
2. In case you have forgotten your **login ID**, Please inform us through email. We'll guide you in obtaining a login ID. Please refrain from attempting to create another login ID.
3. In case you have forgotten your **password**, click on forgot password and enter your user Id (registered mail Id) and then submit. A new password would then be generated automatically and sent on your mail id.

Payment Procedure

STEP 1: Contact Details Update

In the user/participant dashboard users have to fill all the missed or updated contact details like address, state and contact no's etc in settings > Edit Profile

STEP 2: GST Information Update

We have now included a GST option in Settings>Edit Profile. The user has to select whether they have GST or not and enter GST No# if they have

STEP 3: Online Payment

1. Login through Login ID (email) & Password and click on "submit" button
2. Click on dashboard
3. Click on Panel
4. Click on Tier1 >Select marker / Tier 2> Select marker
5. Tick the option box
6. Click on create > make payment
7. Choose on payment mode

For **online mode** choose credit/debit card or Net banking then choose bank and make the payment.

For **offline mode**

- Enter the reference number & transaction date
 - Upload evidence of documents
 - Click on submit
8. Once the payment has been successfully made, download the payment receipt.

Alternate Offline Payment Method

The transaction details (UTR. No.) through email: eqas@cmcvellore.ac.in , if you have made the payment by NEFT / RTGS / PFMS with centre code and organisation name. Otherwise we will not be able to trace your credited payment into our bank account for enrollment of EQAS.


Bank Details for Offline Payment

- **Demand draft** made in favor of “**CMC VELLORE ASSOCIATION**” payable at **VELLORE**.

- **Please find below details for NEFT/RTGS/IMPS:**

Account Name : CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE ASSOCIATION
Name of the Bank : STATE BANK OF INDIA
Branch : VELLORE TOWN BRANCH, CODE : 1618
Account Number : 10404158238
IFS / RTGS / IBAN I Code : SBIN0001618
CMC PAN NO : AAATC1278N
CMC GST NO : 33AAATC1278N1ZN

[In the purpose column please write **CMCMicroEQAS** or **22M123**]

 **NEW!!**: In accordance with the GST Law (21.11.2023), all receipts towards the EQAS Fee, collected from both Private and Government Labs are subject to GST (18%). There is no notification on GST exemption for Government Labs.

Procedure Regarding Appeals

1. Please know that as a Participant in the PTP program you will have a right to appeal
2. The appeal must include the name, title, lab code number and contact information of the person submitting the appeal
3. The appeal must be forwarded via e-mail to eqas@cmcvellore.ac.in or by post to the PTP co-ordinator with supporting documents or photographs
4. Appeals will be considered for the following issues:
 - Data entry errors made by PTP provider
 - Errors in sample instructions
 - Sample condition like broken or missing (vials and slides) PT items.
5. Appeals will not be considered for the following issues:
 - Data entry errors made by the participant
 - Statistical method used for the data analysis
 - Assigned values noted in the report.
 - Participant not adhering to posted deadlines
 - Participant failed to report the non-receipt of PT items after learning about their dispatch in the mail.
 - When a participant's contact information, such as email ID, postal address and contact number changes, but is not notified to the PTP provider
 - Request for interim evaluation reports

Panels and Registration Fees -2024

TIER 1 TESTING

Basic Bacteriology and Serology testing for the diagnostic laboratory

Sl.no.	Component	No. of samples x frequency per year	Cost of the panel (Including 18% GST)
1	Bacteriology smear for staining and reporting	3 x 3	Rs. 5,900/-
2	Bacteriology culture for organism identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing	3 x 3	
3	Serology (CRP, RF,RPR,WIDAL,ASO)	3 x 3	

TIER 2 TESTING: SCHEME 1

Molecular panel for identification of bacterial pathogens

Fastidious organism panel	EQAS scheme 1	No. of specimens x frequency/year	Cost of the panel (including 18% GST)
Meningitis panel			
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	ID by PCR	4x2	Rs. 20, 886/-
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>			
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>			
<i>Group B Streptococci</i>			
Respiratory panel			
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	ID by PCR	6x2	Rs. 31,388/-
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>			
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheria</i> - Toxigenic/non-toxigenic			
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>			
<i>Group A Streptococci</i>			

*Identification (ID) by real-time or conventional PCR.

TIER 2 TESTING: SCHEME 2

Molecular panel for identification of gastrointestinal bacterial pathogens

Fastidious organism panel	EQAS scheme 2	No. of specimens x frequency/year	Cost of the panel (including 18% GST)
Enterohemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i>	ID by PCR	6X2	Rs. 31,388/-
<i>Vibrio cholera</i> - O1/non-O1/O139 - Toxigenic/non-toxigenic - Classical/El Tor	ID by PCR		
<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	ID by culture + PCR		
Non-typhoidal Salmonella	ID by serogroup multiplex PCR		
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.,	ID by culture + PCR		
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	ID by PCR		

*Identification (ID) by real-time or conventional PCR

TIER 2 TESTING: SCHEME 3
Molecular detection of virulence and antimicrobial resistance

Category	EQAS scheme 3 (culture/gene detection)	No of specimens x frequency per year	Cost of the panel (including 18%GST)
Gram positive pathogens			
Methicillin resistance and Panton Valentine Leukocidin (PVL) toxin screening in <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Conventional PCR for <i>mecA</i> and PVL genes	2X2	Rs. 10,384/-
Penicillin susceptibility in <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Real time PCR for detection of PBP2B		
Gram negative pathogens			
Amp -C	MOX, CIT, DHA, ACC, EBC, FOX	3X2	Rs.3540/-
Extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL)	SHV, TEM, VEB, PER	3X2	Rs.4720/-
CTX-M (ESBL)	CTX-M1, CTX-M2, CTX-M8, CTX-M9, CTX-M25	3X2	Rs.3540/-
Carbapenemases	VIM, NDM, KPC, OXA-48, GES, SPM	3X2	Rs. 4720/-

TIER 2 TESTING: SCHEME 4
Culture based detection of antimicrobial resistance

Category	EQAS scheme 4	No of specimens x frequency per year	Cost of the panel (including 18%GST)
Population analysis profile for detection of heteroresistant vancomycin intermediate <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Culture	2X2	Rs. 10,384/-

Note: Tier 2 Panels are not NABL Accredited

