



UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations Quarterly Report for partner organisations October 2016

This report provides information for the partner organisations involved in development of SMIs and includes updates for the last three months (July 2016 – September 2016).

1. Website

The top five documents receiving the most ongoing web page hits since the last quarterly report are:

[B 41: Investigation of urine](#)

[B 58: Detection of carriage of group B streptococci](#)

[B 28: Investigation of genital tract and associated specimens](#)

[B 30: Investigation of faecal specimens for enteric pathogens](#)

[B 11: Investigation of swabs from skin and superficial soft tissue infections](#)

2. Priorities and Programme of Work

Work on the development of the first two modules of the User Manual template, (conjunctivitis and urine) continues.

The review of “*B 30: Investigation of faecal specimens for enteric pathogens*” and “*B 31: Investigation of specimens other than blood for parasites*” have started and both are reviewed alongside each other.

Development of SMI for Uncertainty of Measurement will start in the New Year.

3. UK SMI Working Group Meetings and Steering Committee

Please contact the Standards Unit to request information regarding Working Group or Steering Committee meetings.

Past meetings:

Chairs Strategy Meeting (3 August 2016)

Steering Committee (8 September 2016)

Virology Working Group (29 September 2016)

Bacteriology Working Group (20 October 2016)

Future meetings:

National User Manual Template Working Group (17 November 2016)

Virology Working Group (18 January 2017)

Bacteriology Working Group (8 February 2017)

Steering Committee (8 March 2017)

National User Manual Template (5 April 2017)

4. Consultation

All [open consultations](#) can be found on the GOV.UK website.

5. Recently Issued Documents

All three of the documents listed below have been reviewed, reorganised and renamed in order to ensure ease of use within the typical work flows of a routine clinical microbiology laboratory.

[B 41: Investigation of urine](#)

[B 59: Detection of Enterobacteriaceae producing extended spectrum \$\beta\$ lactamases](#)

[B 60: Screening and Detection of Bacteria with Carbapenem-Hydrolysing \$\beta\$ -lactamases \(Carbapenemases\)](#)

The new Test Procedure document, [TP 40: Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionisation - time of flight mass spectrometry \(MALDI-TOF MS\) test procedure](#) has been issued and it is on the website.

6. Lay Representation

The new lay representative members have been in post since July and all have attended their respective meetings.

7. NICE accreditation

The Standards Unit has successfully retained accreditation to NICE in the recent application made earlier in the year. The Standards Unit demonstrated compliance with 24 of the 25 criteria for accreditation. The criterion 5.1 *Publishing support tools to aid implementation of guidance* was not fully met. A recommendation to improve the process by the NICE accreditation advisory committee is to “Document in the process a requirement for working groups to consider the development of support tools where appropriate for UK SMIs”. The renewed accreditation is valid until 30 June 2021.

8. Standards Microbiologist

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Standards Microbiologist for the Standards Unit following the resignation of Ayuen Lual. We would like to thank Ayuen for her hard work over the last years and wish her well in her new job role as a Scientific Marketing Manager at the National Culture Type Collections. Until a replacement has been found, please send any correspondence or enquiries to standards@phe.gov.uk.

9. Interim Lead for the External Quality Assurance Department (eQAD)

The new Interim Director for the External Quality Assurance Department is Ruhi Siddiqui and she was appointed on the 15th August 2016. Ruhi will be responsible for maintaining leadership and service delivery of the outputs of the eQAD department over this interim period.

10. Authors

This document was prepared on behalf of the Steering Committee by the Standards Unit.

For any further information please contact:

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