

Performance Monitoring System for BRAF p.Val600Glu (V600E) Mutation Status for Hairy Cell Leukaemia

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 appropriate oversight bodies are informed as necessary (in the UK this was previously the Genetics National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel, NQAAP). Please note that each programme will be scored independently.

Outline

Two samples are issued at each trial that may or may not harbour a *BRAF* p.Val600Glu (V600E) mutation. There are three trials per annum.

The *BRAF* p.Val600Glu (V600E) Mutation trial requires a qualitative response from participants; therefore, participants are asked if, using their normal laboratory technique, they have detected the presence/absence of the *BRAF* p.Val600Glu (V600E) mutation status. The presence/absence of the *BRAF* p.Val600Glu (V600E) mutation is determined by consensus (modal result) of participant data. 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 consecutive 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 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 as well as telephone, email or face-to-face communications.

If a participant's status is elevated to persistent unsatisfactory performance, then a further email and hub notification will be issued highlighting this and, for UK based participants, the appropriate oversight body informed (previously the Genetics NQAAP). 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 to the oversight body even if they have not met the criteria for persistent unsatisfactory performance in any individual EQA.

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 or the scoring amended.