

Platelet immunology Scheme - scoring

Results must be returned within two weeks, and a sample de-code is issued soon after the closing date. A report detailing the results of all laboratories – anonymously – is sent out later.

All laboratories are tested on their ability to detect and identify HPA antibodies. HLA antibodies may be present in the samples but their detection is not included in the scoring scheme.

An antibody must be detected by NIBSC and at least four other laboratories to be included in the scoring scheme. The scoring scheme has been adapted from other serology proficiency schemes in the UK. Points are awarded for correct determination of the presence or absence of an antibody and points are subtracted for an incorrect answer. A percentage mark is then calculated from the maximum marks available.

A mean score over the last three exercises is calculated for each laboratory. HPA genotyping is scored in a similar way. Poor performers – the cut-off for poor performers is 75% in the serology scheme and 95% for HPA genotyping – are contacted by the scheme organiser to try to identify ways to improve performance.