WHO Reference Panel
WHO Anti-EBOV Convalescent Plasma
NIBSC code: 16/344
Instructions for use
(Version 2.0, Dated 27/07/2017)

1. INTENDED USE
The proposed 1st WHO International Reference Panel of Anti-Ebola virus (EBOV) Convalescent Plasmas consists of freeze-dried preparations of plasma samples obtained from four patients recovered from Ebola virus disease (EVD) and a negative control plasma obtained from a healthy blood donor. Each ampoule contains the freeze-dried equivalent of 0.25 mL human plasma.

The panel was evaluated in a WHO international collaborative study (1). Individual panel members are NIBSC code 15/280 (ARC), 15/282 (NHSBT), 15/284 (NOR), 15/286 (INMI), 15/288 (negative human plasma). It is intended that the panel is used in the assessment of factors that affect variability of assays used in the detection and quantitation of EBOV antibodies.

2. CAUTION
This preparation is not for administration to humans or animals in the human food chain.

The preparation contains material of human origin and, either the final product or the source materials from which it is derived, have been tested and found negative for HBsAg, anti-HIV and HCV RNA. The convalescent plasmas are confirmed PCR-negative for Ebola virus and, as with the negative plasma, were solvent detergent-treated prior to their development into candidate WHO biological reference materials (2). As with all materials of biological origin, this preparation should be regarded as potentially hazardous to health. It should be used and discarded according to your own laboratory’s safety procedures. Such safety procedures should include the wearing of protective gloves and avoiding the generation of aerosols. Care should be exercised in opening ampoules or vials, to avoid cuts.

3. UNITAGE
Pending establishment by WHO ECBS in October 2017, no unitage has been assigned to the panel members.

4. CONTENTS
Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom, United States of America, Norway and Italy.

Each ampoule contains the freeze-dried equivalent of 0.25 mL human plasma.

5. STORAGE
16/344 should be stored at –20°C or below upon receipt.

Please note: because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING
DIN ampoules have an ‘easy-open’ coloured stress point, where the narrow ampoule stem joins the wider ampoule body. Various types of ampoule breaker are available commercially. To open the ampoule, tap the ampoule gently to collect material at the bottom (labelled) end and follow manufactures instructions provided with the ampoule breaker.

DIN ampoules have an ‘easy-open’ coloured stress point, where the narrow ampoule stem joins the wider ampoule body. Tap the ampoule gently to collect the material at the bottom (labelled) end. Ensure that the disposable ampoule safety breaker provided is pushed down on the stem of the ampoule and against the shoulder of the ampoule body. Hold the body of the ampoule in one hand and the disposable ampoule breaker covering the ampoule stem between the thumb and first finger of the other hand. Apply a bending force to open the ampoule at the coloured stress point, primarily using the hand holding the plastic collar.

Care should be taken to avoid cuts and projectile glass fragments that might enter the eyes, for example, by the use of suitable gloves and an eye shield. Take care that no material is lost from the ampoule and no glass falls into the ampoule. Within the ampoule is dry nitrogen gas at slightly less than atmospheric pressure. A new disposable ampoule breaker is provided with each DIN ampoule.

7. USE OF MATERIAL
No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze-dried material prior to reconstitution

This material should be reconstituted in 0.25 mL distilled water. Following addition of water, the ampoules should be left at ambient temperature for approximately 30 minutes until dissolved and then mixed thoroughly, avoiding the generation of excessive foam.

8. STABILITY
Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities. Reference Materials should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label.

NIBSC follows the policy of WHO with respect to its reference materials.

9. REFERENCES
1) Report WHO/BS/2017.2316 submitted to the WHO Expert Committee for Biological Standardization.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
We gratefully acknowledge the important contributions of the collaborative study participants. We also thank David Wood and Micha Nuebling of the WHO and participants of teleconferences for their support, guidance and advice. We also thank colleagues Maria Zambon, Angie Lackenby, Simon Carne, Pamela Saunders, Meera Chand and Kevin Brown at Public Health England, Colindale, UK for PCR testing of plasma samples. We also thank Steven A. Rubin, FDA/CBER, USA for facilitating the sample permits and shipments to laboratories participating in the study in the USA.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION
Further information can be obtained as follows;
This material: enquiries@nibsc.org
WHO Biological Standards:
http://www.who.int/biologicals/en/
JCTLM Higher order reference materials:
http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jctlm/
Derivation of International Units:
http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international_standards.aspx
Ordering standards from NIBSC:
http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx
NIBSC Terms & Conditions:
http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx

12. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK
Customers are encouraged to provide feedback on the suitability or use of the material provided or other aspects of our service. Please send any comments to enquiries@nibsc.org

13. CITATION
In all publications, including data sheets, in which this material is referenced, it is important that the preparation’s title, its status, the NIBSC
code number, and the name and address of NIBSC are cited and cited correctly.

14. MATERIAL SAFETY SHEET  
Classification in accordance with Directive 2000/54/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008: Not applicable or not classified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical and Chemical properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical appearance:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeze dried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrosive: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygroscopic: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxidising: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irgant: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Toxicological properties

Effects of inhalation: Not established, avoid inhalation
Effects of ingestion: Not established, avoid ingestion
Effects of skin absorption: Not established, avoid contact with skin

Suggested First Aid

Inhalation: Seek medical advice
Ingestion: Seek medical advice
Contact with eyes: Wash with copious amounts of water. Seek medical advice
Contact with skin: Wash thoroughly with water.

Action on Spillage and Method of Disposal

Spillage of ampoule contents should be taken up with absorbent material wetted with an appropriate disinfectant. Rinse area with an appropriate disinfectant followed by water. Absorbent materials used to treat spillage should be treated as biological waste.

15. LIABILITY AND LOSS

In the event that this document is translated into another language, the English language version shall prevail in the event of any inconsistencies between the documents.

Unless expressly stated otherwise by NIBSC, NIBSC’s Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Materials (available at http://www.nibsc.org/About_Us/Terms_and_Conditions.aspx or upon request by the Recipient) (“Conditions”) apply to the exclusion of all other terms and are hereby incorporated into this document by reference. The Recipient’s attention is drawn in particular to the provisions of clause 11 of the Conditions.

16. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

Country of origin for customs purposes*: United Kingdom

* Defined as the country where the goods have been produced and/or sufficiently processed to be classed as originating from the country of supply, for example a change of state such as freeze-drying.

Net weight: 0.25g

Toxicity Statement: Non-toxic

Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable, Attached: No

17. CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

NIBSC does not provide a Certificate of Analysis for WHO Biological Reference Materials because they are internationally recognised primary reference materials fully described in the instructions for use. The reference materials are established according to the WHO Recommendations for the preparation, characterization and establishment of international and other biological reference standards http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publication/TRS932Annex2_Inter_bi olefstandardsrev2004.pdf (revised 2004). They are officially endorsed by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) based on the report of the international collaborative study which established their suitability for the intended use.