

Hemocue Quality Control (QC)

Commercial controls are purchased and need to be run monthly and when a new lot number or delivery of microcuvettes have arrived.

Unopened control vials are stored in the theatre fridge between 2-8°C.

Internal QC is performed by Lead Operators or the POCT Quality Manager only.

Internal QC (IQA)

Remove vials from the refrigerator and allow to warm to room temperature for 15 minutes before mixing

- Prepare analyser for QC by pressing both buttons on the analyser until a flashing QC symbol is displayed, then left button to select QC-test (press right button to unselect)
- Roll the vial back and forth for 20 - 30 seconds; occasionally invert the vial. Mix vigorously, but do not shake
- Gently invert the vial 8 - 10 times immediately before sampling.
- Remove cap from vial. Dispense drop of control onto a hydrophobic surface (the packaging of the microcuvette is perfect) Do not fill the microcuvette from the vial.



- Fill the microcuvette in one continuous process.
- Wipe off excess blood from the outside of the microcuvette.
- Wait one minute before placing filled microcuvette into the cuvette holder and gently slide into the measuring position.
- After 15-60 seconds, the haemoglobin value will be displayed. Target values can be located on the package insert of the QC material.
- Record results on the Hemocue QC record sheet.

If the control fails:

- Review method to ensure control was run correctly.
- Check expiration date and storage of both the cuvettes and controls.
- Repeat the test.
- Any further issues, contact the POCT Quality Manager on 2453 for support.

QC is reviewed monthly by the POCT Quality Manager when the EQA is performed.

External QC (EQA)

One randomly selected patient sample is run monthly, comparing the Hemocue to the Hastings Laboratory CBC analyser. This is run by the POCT Quality Manager or delegate.

Sample Comparison results need to be documented on the spreadsheet located at:

<J:\Departments\POCT\QC\Hemocue QC & Comparisons.xlsx>

RCPA allowable limits of performance are used for both IQA and EQA. These are ± 5 up to 100g/L or 5% over 100g/L. EQA results are reviewed and actioned by the POCT Quality Manager.