

## FOCUS ON GenQA EQAs for Molecular Genetics

Genetic testing has developed significantly over the past few years and GenQA has modified EQA format to respond accordingly.



*Adapting to your needs*

- Introduced Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) panel testing EQAs
- Increased number of EQAs provided to cover The NHS England National Genomic Testing Directory
- Updated GenQA website to streamline submissions for participants' ease of use

In response to the increased pressures on laboratories caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, GenQA has responded rapidly and made further changes to the 2020 Molecular Genetic EQAs to reduce the burden of testing whilst ensuring EQA coverage of the breadth of technologies within laboratories.

### 2020 Changes:

- 2 distributions split & staggered into 4
- Early distributions interpretation only EQAs
- Reduced cases per EQA – from 4 to 2
- More interpretation only EQAs to reduce testing pressures in laboratories
- Merging EQAs to reduce overall number of tests required whilst covering the breadth of disorders/technologies
- Postponing a small number of EQAs
- Reduce fees, for some EQAs, to reflect changes implemented

## EDUCATION

As participant meetings have been postponed during 2020, GenQA is holding monthly webinars to promote our educational commitment.

### The first Molecular Genetics webinar Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

- Summary of the changes to the 2020 EQAs
- What constitutes as a genotyping error?
- Is accurate STR sizing important?
- Do we really need to detect low level mosaicism?

For further details on how to join or to submit any questions you would like addressed in the webinar, please e-mail [info@genqa.org](mailto:info@genqa.org) by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**FOCUS ON next month:**

**Clinical Genetics**