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## EQA

### Guide for DTU Focal Persons

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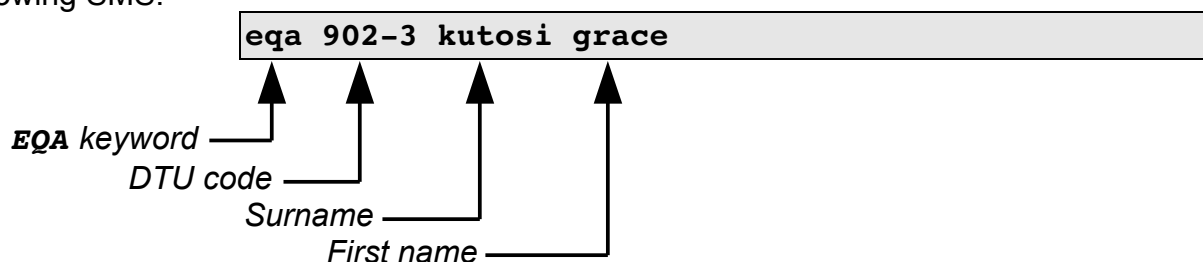
#### 1. Functionality

As the EQA focal person at a participating DTU, you will receive the results of controllers' tests on the slides collected from your DTU. The results will be sent to your phone as an SMS mobile phone text message. No computer or internet access is required.

#### 2. User Registration

Before you can receive any SMS messages you must register yourself as a focal person with the system. To register, send an SMS with the keyword **EQA** followed by your DTU code, then your names.

**EXAMPLE:** A clinician named Kutosi Grace working at a DTU with the code 902-3 would like to register with the system as the EQA DTU focal person. She would send the following SMS:



After registering, your DTLS will sample and collect the slides from your DTU. You will receive an SMS containing the results of the EQA process for your DTU's slides.



#### Important Notes:

- You only need to register once. You do **not** need to register each time you send a message.
- After registering, the system identifies you by your phone number, so you must send messages using the same line with which you registered.
- There can only be one EQA focal person registered at each DTU.

### **3. Receiving SMS Results**

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You will receive a brief SMS feedback as soon as the results of the EQA are available. This SMS report will be sent to the DTU EQA focal person, DLFP and DTLS simultaneously. The purpose of this rapid feedback of the results of the EQA is to enable the DTUs, DLFP and DTLS to prioritise on-site supervision and implementation of corrective measures to DTUs with major errors, prior to delivery of the paper copy reports.

The results SMS will indicate the number of slides that were read correctly, and the number that had a Quantification Error (QE), Low False Negative (LFN), Low False Positive (LFP), High False Negative (HFN), or High False Positive (HFP) result.

**EXAMPLE:** Your DTU had ten slides sampled for EQA. Eight of the slides were read correctly, one was a High False Positive (HFP), and one was a Quantification Error (QE). You would **receive** the following SMS:

**EQA results for your DTU are: 1 HFP, 1 QE, 8 Correct**

**EXAMPLE:** Your DTU had ten slides sampled for EQA. Five of the slides were read correctly, two were High False Positives (HFP), one was a Low False Positive (LFP), one was a Quantification Error (QE), and one was a Low False Negative (LFN). You would **receive** the following SMS:

**EQA results for your DTU are: 2 HFP, 1 LFP, 1 QE, 1 LFN, 5 Correct**

**EXAMPLE:** Your DTU had ten slides sampled for EQA. All of the slides were read correctly. You would **receive** the following SMS:

**EQA results for your DTU are: 10 Correct**

#### 4. Classification of errors and Recommendations

Classification of Errors					
Result of technician	Result of controller				
	Negative	1-9 AFB/ 100 fields	1+	2+	3+
Negative	Correct	LFN	HFN	HFN	HFN
1-9 AFB/ 100 fields	LFP	Correct	Correct	QE	QE
1+	HFP	Correct	Correct	Correct	QE
2+	HFP	QE	Correct	Correct	Correct
3+	HFP	QE	QE	Correct	Correct

Correct: No errors  
 QE: Quantification error Minor error  
 LFN: Low False Negative Minor error  
 LFP: Low False Positive Minor error  
 HFN: High False Negative Major error  
 HFP: High False Positive Major error

Numerous **HFP** and **HFN** may be caused by unusable microscope, or lab staff not examining slides properly, or requiring re-training in recognizing AFBs.

Single **HFP** or **HFN** may be an administrative error – check sample registration and labeling of slides and recording of results.

Many **LFP** (with or without any **HFP**) may be a result of contaminated stains. Check stains with negative control slide. It may also signal a need for re-training on recognizing AFBs.

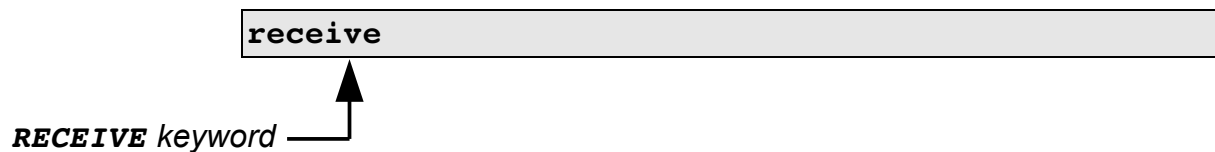
Many **HFN** and **LFN** may indicate: poor smear preparation, problems with staining technique, problems with microscope, or inadequate examination of slides.

**QEs** may indicate problems with staining procedure, or lab staff examining insufficient numbers of fields.

## 5. Receiving discordant slides and feedback report

After the second controller has completed checking the slides, they will send you a feedback report and the discordant slides. **The EQA process is not complete until you receive the feedback report and discordant slides.** When you receive them, you must notify the system that you received them by sending the keyword **RECEIVE**.

**EXAMPLE:** You receive the discordant slides and feedback report:



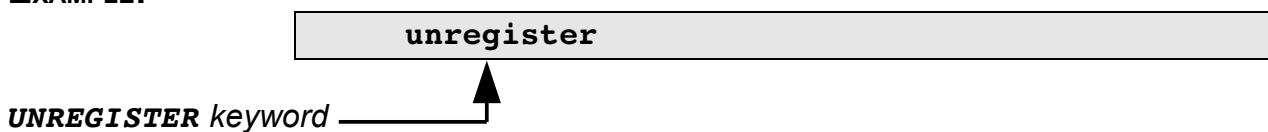
## 6. Moving DTUs

If you move to a different DTU, simply send the same **EQA** message that you initially sent to register (see section **2. User Registration**) with the new DTU code.

## 7. Unregistering

If you discontinue your position at the DTU, or you go on leave, you can unregister from the SMS system by sending the keyword **UNREGISTER**. After unregistering you will no longer receive any results through SMS. If you would like to re-register again, you can simply send the **EQA** keyword again (see section **2. User Registration**).

**EXAMPLE:**



### Important Notes:

- The SMS messages are not case sensitive. Letters can be capital letters or small letters.
- Be careful to differentiate between 0 (zero) and o (the letter O). Those characters appear similar on many phones, but interchanging them may result in your message being rejected.
- You should receive a response after any message you send. If you don't receive a response, wait one hour before trying again. If you still don't receive a response, contact your DTLS or ZTLS for assistance.