



THE QUALITY POLICY OF THE SOUTH EAST ENGLAND GENERAL HISTOPATHOLOGY EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME

The South East England General Histopathology EQA Scheme is a General Histopathology Interpretive Scheme which aims to provide an accurate, fair, reliable, efficient, cost effective service of quality assurance and education to all participants, therefore assuring a high-quality diagnostic service to the participants' patients. The scheme provides a confidential system of personalised reports indicating performance compared to peers of microscopic clinical interpretation based on consensus. The Scheme is committed to providing a service of the highest quality and shall be aware of, and take into consideration, the needs and requirements of its members. Membership is open to any Consultant Histopathologist, Associate Specialist or long-term Locum Consultant who reports independently in General or Specialist Histopathology. The scheme predominantly covers those working within the regions of South East England (Essex, Kent, South London, Surrey and Sussex) and Wales although applicants outside these regions are accepted on a case by case basis, including overseas applicants.

In order to ensure that the needs and requirements of participants are met, the Scheme Management will:

- Operate a Quality Management System to integrate the organisation, procedures, processes and resources that conform to the standards set out by the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel and those of the Royal College of Pathologists
- Set and review quality objectives and plans in order to implement this quality policy and achieve continual quality improvement of scheme provision
- Ensure that all personnel are familiar with this quality policy, the quality manual and all referenced documentation to implement procedures relevant to their work to ensure user satisfaction.
- Ensuring staff recruitment, training, development & retention is in place to ensure an appropriate and effective service to its participants

The South East England General Histopathology EQA Scheme is committed to:

- Maintaining the quality of the EQA Scheme in accordance with the Scheme's Quality Management System and continued improvement of the effectiveness of the Management System.
- Upholding professional values and continuing commitment to good professional practice, in compliance with the Scheme's Quality Management System and the host Trust's policies and procedures, the maintenance of high standards & continuing compliance with ISO 17043:2010
- The continuing education of participants by provision of proficiency material fit for intended use
- The proper procurement & maintenance of equipment and resources required for the provision of the EQA service
- The appropriate procurement and distribution of assessment and educational material
- Reporting timely, confidential and accurate results of circulations
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its staff, participants and visitors and complying with relevant environmental legislation
- Ensuring the needs of the participants are met and reviewed
- Assessment of participant satisfaction and a programme of internal audit in order to identify continual quality improvement.
- Reviewing the SOPs on an annual basis and making appropriate changes
- Maintaining the confidentiality of the participants and treating participants sensitively and without prejudice

| Role | Name | Signature | Date |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Scheme Organiser | Prof J Schofield | | May 2022 |
| Scheme Manager | Mrs G. P. Donald | | May 2022 |
| Scheme Quality Manager | Mrs H Dasley | | May 2022 |