Proficiency Testing Assay Instructions for T-cell Receptor Excision Circle (TRECPT)

CAUTION
These test specimens are made from normal cord blood and adult donor blood products. Some of these have been tested and found to be negative for HBsAg, HBV DNA, HIV-1/2 Antibody, HIV-1 RNA, HCV Antibody, HCV RNA and Syphilis serology. Because no test method offers complete assurance that these or other infectious agents are absent, treat all specimens as potentially infectious and follow universal precautions. For more information on bloodborne pathogens, visit [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/)

SPECIMEN QUALITY STATEMENT
NSQAP strives to create specimens that mimic newborn dried blood spots. Prepared specimens have been certified and may depart from established visual criteria for assessing specimen quality. These specimens are fit for the purposes of proficiency testing.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT
NSQAP participant information and evaluations are strictly confidential and shared only with individual participants, unless written authorization for release is received.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**
- The Clinical Assessment Code choices are Screen Negative (no follow up required), Screen Positive (TREC out of range, reference gene in range) and Unsatisfactory Sample (TREC and reference gene out of range).
- You must use the current version of the TRECPT Data Reporting form - the codes for method, DNA extraction, reference genes and clinical assessment have changed so make sure the code selected is correct. DO NOT make any changes to the form format (i.e. do not insert or delete any cells etc.) and do not paste information into cells that are formatted with a drop-down list.
- The sequences for the amplification primers and probes used to detect TREC and the reference gene are requested, when known, to ensure that the PT materials provided will accommodate all assays.
- When the reported clinical assessment disagrees with the expected clinical assessment or when a clinical assessment is left blank, the result will be categorized as "unacceptable".

ASSAYING AND REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS
1. Inspect all proficiency testing (PT) specimens upon receipt. If a panel is incomplete or contains unlabeled specimens, request a new panel within 48 hours. Send the following information to NSQAPDMT@cdc.gov: laboratory code number, PT Panel Type, Specimen Number(s), and reason for requesting new panel.
2. Refrigerate the enclosed specimens at 4 °C upon receipt if storage is necessary.
3. Handle these specimens as routine specimens. Assay them as part of your normal daily workload. **Participating laboratories must generate and submit their own results and must not share NSQAP PT test results or specimens with any other laboratory under ANY circumstance, even if the laboratory normally sends specimens to referral laboratories for routine or confirmatory testing. Participants found to have falsified or shared results will be barred from participation in the NSQAP PT program.**
4. Punch all dried blood disks for analysis from within the blood spots on the specimen cards.
5. Download the TRECPT Data Reporting form from our website at: [https://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsqap_resources.html](https://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsqap_resources.html) Any data submission form which is NOT current OR has been altered will NOT be accepted.
6. Fill out ALL the requested information on the TREC data reporting form. Complete each assessment based on assay results and interpretation criteria established in your laboratory. Enter both the Assessment Code and Reference Gene Category in their respective Excel cells. You may elect to provide explanation in the comment field if the decision to follow-up is based on reasons other than a low TREC level.

7. Every enclosed specimen represents a full-term (> 2500 g) baby 24 hours of age who is on no medication, has not had a transfusion, and has had sufficient intake of a protein and lactose-based diet for detection of any metabolic disorder.

8. If you cannot report results for any or all specimens, use the comment field to explain why. You must report results (or an explanation) for each specimen to stay enrolled in the program. If a specimen result (or explanation) is not reported, no credit will be issued for it in the scoring. Continual non-reporting will be reviewed and may result in inactivation from this program.

9. Attach the file to an email and send to NSQPDMT@cdc.gov. Include your laboratory code number in the subject line of your email.

Late data will not be accepted for any reason. If data are not reported once within three PT events, your laboratory will be inactivated for the analytes not reported.

To view dates for future shipments, see the NSQAP Shipping Schedule at: http://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsqlap_resources.html.

For questions, send an email to NSQPDMT@cdc.gov and include your laboratory code in the email subject line.