

**The Hong Kong College of Pathologists
&
Hong Kong Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences
Quality Assurance Programme Ltd**

**INTERPRETATIVE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME
CYTOPATHOLOGY**

Our Cytology QAP, launched in 2003, is a collaborative function between The Hong Kong College of Pathologists, the Hong Kong Society of Cytology and the Hong Kong Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences Quality Assurance Programme Ltd (HKIMLSQAP Ltd.). It is a College CME-accredited activity based on diagnostic evaluation of actual patient specimens on glass slides (smears / cytospin preparations / liquid-based cytology preparations) through circulation. Each participating laboratory will examine the slide for a particular case. Topics including gynaecological, non-gynaecological and fine needle aspiration cytology may be covered. A Cytology QAP Working Group, consisting of experienced cytopathologists and cytotechnologists, is responsible for case selection, scoring and performance assessment.

To streamline the system and minimize some problems with couriers, we have adjusted the program to a 1-year cycle starting from May each year. Each cycle will consist of two circulations. Each circulation contains 1 set of Gynaecology Cytology and 1 set of Non-Gynaecology Cytology.

As before, strict confidentiality will be observed in marking. Participation is voluntary and open to all laboratories on a “first-come-first-served” basis. Owing to limitation of manpower and resources, the programme can only accept up to 25 participants per year. Priority however will be given to renewed applications. Subscription from individuals will not be entertained at the moment.

Upon receipt of the slide set, the individual participating laboratory is required to go through the cases and return their opinions (mainly in form of multiple-choice answers) to the QAP Organizer by fax within a specified period of time. After receiving the participant's feedback, the Organizer will then return the Working Group consensus opinions and participant's score immediately, while the slides are still in their laboratory for on-site checking. Afterward, the slide set will be circulated to other laboratories via the Organizer, according to a slide circulation schedule. A courier service, which can guarantee rapid delivery and allows records being traceable, is used. Smooth running of this programme depends on rapid and timely return of the slides by the participating laboratories. A “Certificate of Participation” will be issued to each laboratory, upon satisfactory completion of the slide circulations.

A subscription fee of HK\$2,000 per year is charged per participating laboratory. For overseas participants, an additional cost for mailing of the slides will be charged during each circulation. Starting from Year 2018, the application process is carried out by HKIMLSQAP. Please download the registration form from <http://www.hkimlsqap.org/Information/Regist/regist-regist-form.htm>. The completed registration form should be faxed to HKIMLSQAP (fax number: 2124 2798). The payment should be made payable to Hong Kong Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences Quality Assurance Programme Ltd. and sent to: Flat 1711, 17th Floor, Blk C, Bell House, 525 Nathan Road, Yaumatei, Kowloon. For further enquiries, please contact Dr. WAN Judith Vonnie (Cytology QAP Organizer) at Tel: 3517 6606 or e-mail: wjv996@ha.org.hk.