1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 Purpose and scope

The Eastern Pathology Alliance Website was developed primarily to improve communication between the Service (EPA) and our Users; by ensuring all necessary information that was previously located within departmental user-manuals, users could now access in real time and could be made aware of changes to the service. The purpose of this document is to update the website with factors that may affect the performance of microbiological assays or result interpretation for user information and website departmental information page uniformity.

1.2 References

EPA-GENP-013 Q-Pulse: Guidance on Use of Documents Module

EPA-QUP-107 The EPA Website

https://www.easternpathologyalliance.nhs.uk

1.3 Responsibilities

The Quality Team are responsible for the transfer to the website of approved documentation from Q-pulse. The Quality team are responsible for the ongoing maintenance, improvements and conformance to ISO 15189:2022 clause 7.2.2 information for patients and users. Authors and approvers are responsible for reviewing and approving website documents on an annual basis. For updates to website documents, authors and approvers feel that may be required changes will be logged on Q-pulse as per EPA-GENP-013. Each website page has the corresponding Q-pulse Document number at the bottom of the page for reference and revision identification.

1.4 Information to be uploaded to the website

Below is the information that is required to be uploaded to the website:

Factors that may affect performance of assays or result interpretation

- Samples must be taken in the appropriate manner and volumes
- Samples must be appropriately labelled
- Lack of relevant clinical details
- Samples placed in inappropriate containers or anticoagulants
- Samples will be adversely affected by delay in receipt
- Samples will be adversely affected by heat/cold degradation
- Lipaemic or haemolysed samples will adversely affect serology investigations
- Clotted samples or samples containing fibrin strands will affect results
- Samples taken into one anticoagulant and then transferred into another e.g. Heparin into EDTA.
- Samples not stored in the correct manner (eg fridged) will be affected.
- Consumables not stored at the correct temperature will affect results (eg MRSA broths and blood culture bottles).