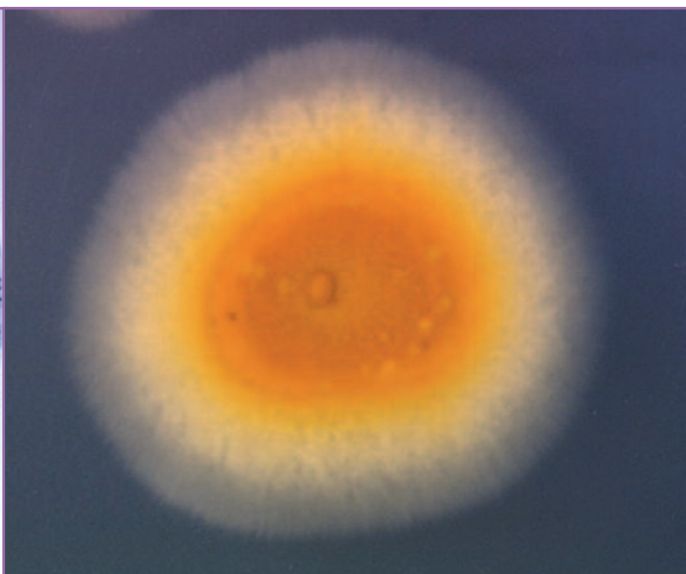


Mycology Schemes



These schemes are suited for all clinical diagnostic laboratories that undertake the isolation, identification and assessment of antifungal susceptibility of pathogenic fungi.

The Mycology scheme covers a wide range of fungi and yeasts.

In addition to the common fungal pathogens, rarer organisms are distributed in order to give participants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with them.

These schemes are designed to improve identification of common dermatophytes and progress knowledge of fungi increasingly associated with important infections in the immuno-compromised patient. Images of the candidate isolates produced in the reference laboratory are provided with helpful expert comment.

UK NEQAS for Microbiology, operated by Public Health England, is a UKAS accredited Proficiency Testing Provider No. 4715. Please see the schedule for details.

Scheme	Examinations	Sample format	No. of distributions per year	No. of samples per distribution	Scoring
<u>Antifungal susceptibility</u>	Antifungal susceptibility testing primarily in yeasts but may include some filamentous fungi such as Aspergillus	Spore suspension	3	2	Organisms are classified as <u>core</u> or <u>advanced</u> with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens. Susceptibility profile results interpreted as susceptible, intermediate and resistant
<u>Cryptococcal antigen detection</u>	Detection of the cryptococcal antigen	Liquid human serum, bronchial lavage and/or simulated CSF	3	2	Presence or absence of the CrAg
<u>Fungal Biomarkers</u>	Detection of the galactomannan antigen	Liquid human serum, bronchial lavage and/or simulated CSF	3	3	Presence or absence of the galactomannan antigen
<u>Mycology</u>	Isolation and identification of fungal organisms	Spore suspension	3	4	Organisms are classified as <u>core</u> or <u>advanced</u> with full scores given for species level identification for core pathogens and genus level identification for advanced pathogens

Mycology Teaching Programme: UK NEQAS in its primary role of education has implemented a teaching scheme for mycology. For further information contact organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk