



NATIONAL STANDARD METHODS
(www.hpa-standardmethods.org.uk)

The 'Inter' – National Standard Methods
1,450 password holders world wide

National Standard Methods (NSMs) have been developed since 1996 to standardise microbiology methods within the UK.



Recent baseline statistics show that we have over 1,450 password holders in 75 different countries.

Over the years NSMs have been adopted as best practice by laboratories across the world.

Take a look at www.hpa-standardmethods.org.uk.



What are the National Standard Methods?

The NSMs are a comprehensive referenced collection of clinical microbiology Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), algorithms (for virology and serology), and guidance notes consisting of over 200 documents which have been developed since 1996 under the auspices of the HPA. Each document undergoes wide and comprehensive consultation with microbiologists nationally and internationally to ensure

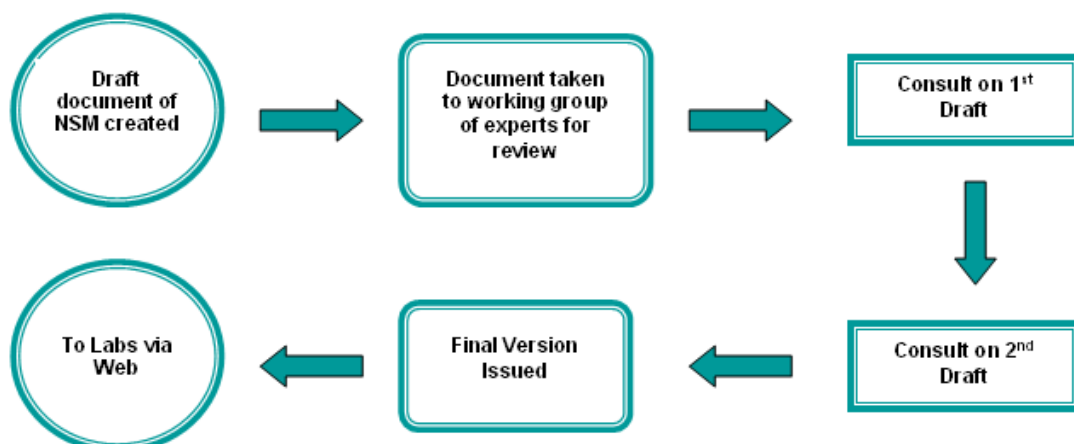
How are they developed ?

Each document is developed within one of the multi professional National Standard Methods Working Groups (NSMWG; Clinical Bacteriology, Clinical Virology, Food and Water) and in conjunction with National Public Health Service for Wales, Reference Laboratories and professional organisations including, Association of Medical Microbiologists, Association of Clinical Microbiologists, Institute of Biomedical Science, Clinical Virology Network and Scottish and Welsh Microbiology Associations.

All NSMs are freely accessible in Adobe PDF® and Microsoft Word® format to password holders. The Standards Unit

Why use NSMs ?

NSMs provide microbiology and virology laboratories with comprehensive guides on how to deal with specimens. Each document contains a detailed and referenced introduction that enables individuals to gain knowledge of the specimen and methods in question. NSMs not only provide details on tried and tested methods but also help to drive forward the modernisation of pathology by recommending newer techniques. The documents also provide a detailed background to the methods and highlight the benefits of their application in clinical diagnostics. NSMs help laboratories identify infrastructure needs and develop business proposals for establishing molecular methods eg PCR and microarrays.



Successful *C.diff* Symposium!

The Standards Unit hosted an eagerly anticipated *Clostridium difficile* Symposium on Thursday 14th February at the HPA, Colindale, Centre for Infections. The Super Bug Explained, was attended by over 200 delegates, including international guests. Here's what some people thought about the day:

" Everything lived up to my expectations and I feel I have gained a lot from attending"

"The talks were very insightful and raised a lot of questions and answered a few as well!"

11th Conference in Genomics and Proteomics of Human Pathogens

"Use of New Technologies to Further Understand the Biology of Transient and Host-Derived Human Pathogens"

26 -27th June 2008

Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections, 61 Colindale Avenue,
London NW9 0NE

Contact: Professors Haroun Shah or Saheer Gharbia Health Protection Agency Centre for
Infections

61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ Tel: 020 8327 6749 or 6750 Fax: 020 8327 7870 or
020 8327 6738

Coming Soon

- **BSOP 42** - Investigation of Bone
- **BSOP 44** - Investigation of Prosthetic Joint Infection samples



Newly Issued

- **BSOP 10** - Processing of faeces for *Clostridium difficile*
- **QSOP 52** - Inoculation of culture media
- **VSOP 10** - Blood borne virus testing in dialysis patients

The Standards Unit: Contacts

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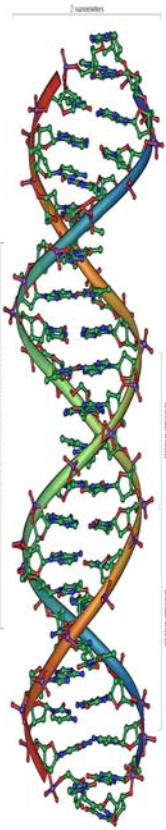
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New Initiatives



The Standards Unit is planning a National Standard Method that will outline best practice for molecular testing. The aim of this document is to outline the current recommended primer sets and relevant references enabling laboratories that are planning to set up PCR services to emulate best practice. We are not in a position to outline actual methods for laboratories to use due to all the variables (equipment, taq providers etc.) involved.

We would really appreciate it if you could forward us the primer information and main reference that you use for the pathogens listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - RSV | - Meningococcus |
| - Parainfluenzaviruses | - Bordatella |
| - HMNV | - <i>H. influenza</i> |
| - VZV | - Invasive fungi |
| - Enteroviruses | - MRSA |
| - HIV quantitative | - Papillomaviruses |
| - HBV quantitative | - HHV6/7 |
| - HCV quantitative, genotyping | - Pneumococcus |
| - EBV quantitative | - MTB |

If you can help please contact us at: standards@hpa.org.uk

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 Web: www.evaluations-standards.org.uk
 Feedback form: www.hpa-quality.org.uk/cfs

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Please tick as appropriate:

- National Standard Methods
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- Quality Systems
qualityteam@hpa.org.uk
- Evaluations midas@hpa.org.uk
- Quality Control Reagents
quality.reagents@hpa.org.uk
- Evaluations and Standards
Laboratory Newsletter

Name:

Dept/company:

Postal address:

Postcode:

Email address:

Telephone:

Enquiry/comment: