QUARTZ

Forensic Blood Toxicology

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The LGC AXIO PT QUARTZ scheme is aimed at laboratories undertaking forensic toxicology and coroners work. Test analytes and case scenarios included in the scheme are discussed regularly with the Advisory Group.

The scheme offers the choice of a number of test materials comprising blood and urine spiked with drugs and metabolites. Case scenarios provided for interpretation covered include sudden and suspicious deaths, drug facilitated sexual assaults (DFSA), impaired driving and other relevant cases.

There is an Alcohol Technical Defence (ATD) exercise that allows practitioners to demonstrate competency in performing these types of calculations.

Participation in QUARTZ will provide independent performance assessment and confidence that results are meaningful and accurate. Consistent good performance will allow laboratories to demonstrate to third parties, customers, regulators and accreditation bodies the quality of their results.

The operation of our QUARTZ scheme is supported by an Advisory Group consisting of members of the professional bodies, scheme participants, and others experienced in the field.

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Test Material*	Analyte*
Blood	Forensic drug identification, quantification and case study covering the following: Anaesthetics, Anticholinergics, Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antihistamines, Antipsychotics, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cannabinoids, Carboxyhaemoglobin, Cardiovascular drugs, Erectile dysfunction, Hypnotic drugs, Non steroidal anti-Inflammatory analgesics, Opioid analgesics, Stimulants. Abuse and prescribed drug quantification of commonly encountered drugs (alternate rounds of drugs of abuse and prescription drugs). Alcohol in blood quantification of Ethanol and Fluoride. Interpretation of a case study (with analytical data, and a scenario or witness statement) to determine the potential blood alcohol level in a given time (Alcohol Technical Defence). Quantification of up to 4 New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Identification of one of the most common synthetic Cannabinoids.
Urine	Identification of up to 4 drugs or metabolites relevant to forensic toxicology. Identification of Synthetic Cannabinoids. Identification of New Psychoactive Substances.

* The full range and availability of test materials and analytes is determined on an annual basis and may be added or removed. For accredited and non-accredited status please see current application form/ scheme description.