

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING YOUR QCONNECT QCs

As of the 27 July 2017, Thermo Fisher Scientific (TFS) and its distributors will no longer sell or distribute QConnect QC products which means:

1. All QConnect QC products must be purchased from NRL, DiaMex or Exact Diagnostics; or their distributors from 27 July 2017
2. Entering data into EDCNet will be affected if using TFS manufactured QC products past this time

Please read the following information to ensure all your ongoing QC needs are met and remain unaffected by this transition.

NRL prides itself on offering the highest quality comprehensive Quality Control (QC) programme and remains innovative in responding to your needs. Evidence of this is our newly established relationship with DiaMex (Heidelberg, Germany) for the manufacture of serology QC samples and Exact Diagnostics (Texas, USA) for the manufacture of nucleic acid testing (NAT) QC samples.

The new QConnect QC Colours have been modified to include additional analytes and are now specific for associated instruments thereby only needing the one QC per instrument. The QConnect Colour range will contain appropriate levels of HBsAg and antibodies for HIV, HCV, HTLV, Treponema and hepatitis B core for the assays they are recommended to monitor.

Please ensure you order the appropriate QConnect QC product for the assays used in your laboratory as this selection may have changed with the new Colour range available.

Blood screening laboratories using multiplex NAT assays that discriminate are recommended to use QConnect TriScreen. Laboratories using single marker NAT assays or multiplex NAT assays that do not discriminate are advised to use the single marker QConnect HIV RNA, HCV RNA and HBV DNA QC products. NRL recommends using NATNEG, a universal negative control for blood borne virus NAT to monitor contamination.

All QConnect QCs are included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and are CE marked.

The [QConnect Quality Control Solutions Catalogue](#) lists the range of QC products available and can be downloaded from the NRL website under the QConnect QC Samples page.

Australian customers can place [online orders](#) through the NRL website (www.nrl.gov.au) under the QConnect QC Samples page. European customers should contact Diamex: order@diamex.com for orders; all other international customers can contact NRL: qconnect@nrl.gov.au

NRL understands that you may have remaining TFS manufactured stock after July 26 and therefore will facilitate the entry of QC results from these samples into EDCNet until **31 October 2017**.

After 31 October 2017, EDCNet will no longer be available for TFS manufactured QConnect QC sample results. Please review QC inventory with this in mind. TFS is prohibited from providing alternative QC monitoring software for monitoring QC for most infectious disease testing until 26 April 2019.

NRL's new partnership with Diamex and Exact Diagnostics will:

- Provide a more personalised service to support customers
- Ensure a continual supply of products to participants of our QC programmes
- Minimise QC lot- to-lot variation
- Modify existing QC samples to contain appropriate analytes for each type of testing
- Offer the most comprehensive infectious diseases QC product range in single and multimarker format including the introduction of syndromic QCs for acute/convalescent viral hepatitis and TORCH serology.

NRL looks forward to continuing a personalised relationship with QConnect customers. Please feel free to contact us for advice, clarification or technical support by contacting:

Joe Vincini at joe@nrl.gov.au or Wayne Dimech at wayne@nrl.gov.au