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Date 10th March 2020

Dear Yvonne

I would like to take this opportunity to provide guidance in relation to running UK NEQAS(H) samples for FBC and ADLC on ADVIA 2120 and ADVIA 2120i Haematology Analysers.

These systems are FDA approved for the enumeration and reporting of circulating nucleated red blood cell counts (nRBCs) whilst performing the standard FBC & Differential test profile. However, if this parameter has been enabled in the system software, the analyser may report an inaccurate WBC on UK NEQAS(H) FBC samples (if run in CBC/DIFF mode) and differential results on ADLC samples, as a result of the material used to manufacture the survey sample.

Therefore, for the participants of the scheme to obtain accurate results for the FBC/ADLC samples, it is recommended that the nRBC method is temporarily disabled on those systems reporting these results, prior to analysis of the FBC/ADLC samples. In order to accomplish this, operators should follow the software steps detailed below:

Customise > System Setup > Morphology Flagging

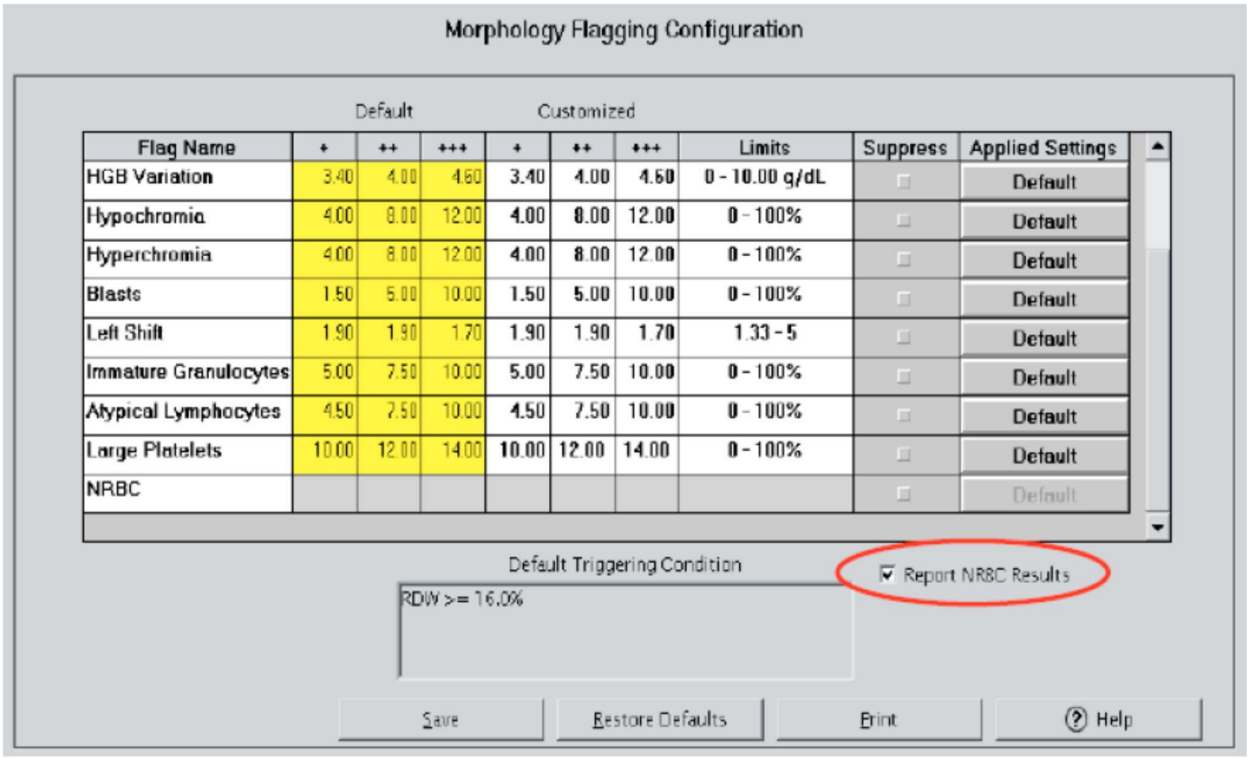
The Morphology Flagging Configuration window contains a 'Report NRBC Results' check box that should be disabled when running UK NEQAS(H) FBC/ADLC samples.

Having disabled the 'Report NRBC Results' check box, operators should click on save and then follow the software steps below to return to routine operations:

Operations > Log On / Log Off

and then ensure that the correct Operator ID code is entered into the system prior to running samples.

An example of the window is shown below.



The entire process should be reversed following completion of the analysis of UK NEQAS(H) FBC/ADLC samples. Clearly, if laboratories are not reporting nRBCs routinely, there is no requirement to modify the software prior to running the FBC/ADLC samples.

It should be noted that the issues associated with the FBC/ADLC scheme and the accurate reporting of WBC and white blood cell differential results has no impact upon the ability of the ADVIA 2120 and ADVIA 2120i Haematology Systems to report nRBC counts for human samples, as specified in the method information supplied with the system.

I trust this guidance will provide enough information for scheme participants to provide accurate results for the FBC/ADLC scheme, but please do not hesitate to contact me should additional guidance be required.

Yours sincerely

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