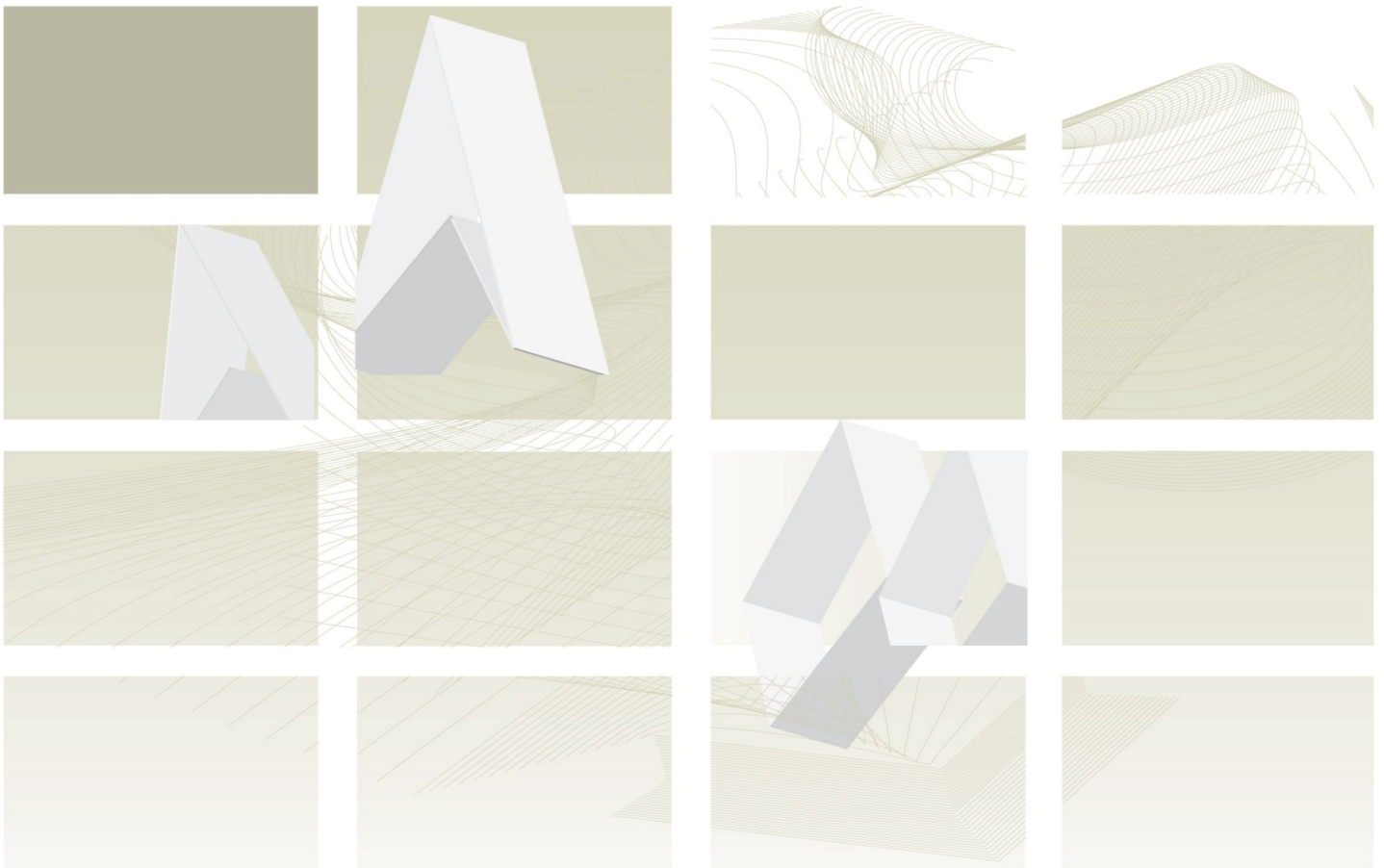




UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations

Review of Users' Comments received by
Working Group for Microbiology Standards in Clinical
Virology/Serology

V 18 Complement Fixation Tests



Recommendations are listed as ACCEPT/ PARTIAL ACCEPT/DEFER/ NONE or PENDING

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES

Comment Number	1		
Date Received	25/08/2009	Lab Name	Exeter
Section			
Comment			
<p>I don't have the technical expertise to comment on the detail of the methodology but would make the following points:</p> <p>a. Introduction: Background;</p> <p>“The CFT is the commonest test used to demonstrate this increase in antibody levels against a wide range of viruses”.</p> <p>Many virologists regard the CFT as a totally flawed and outmoded test and its limitations need to be recognized. This was highlighted in a debate held at the UKCVN meeting in 2008. For agents such as HSV NAAT methods for direct viral detection in CSF, swabs etc are the routine method of choice.</p> <p>“CFT may also be used to detect the presence of intrathecal antibody in CNS infection³”.</p> <p>The reference is from 1989 and I really think that this has been confined to the history books.</p> <p>b. Section 2.1</p> <p>“control blood contamination”</p> <p>I don't know what this means.</p> <p>c. Section 3.2</p> <p>Ideally, serum should be aliquotted to two storage vials, one stored at +4°C for immediate use and the other frozen at –20°C or below.</p> <p>This is fraught with problems of mislabelling and crossover of samples. I believe most labs now test from and store serum in the primary tube.</p>			
Recommended Action	<p>a. REJECT</p> <p>Although an old method still has relevance in some laboratories and the reference is suitable for this document.</p> <p>b. NONE</p> <p>The group felt that the sentence was clear in that it referred to controlling the level of blood contamination in CSF samples.</p> <p>c. REJECT</p> <p>Working group believes that the recommendations made in V 18 is a good minimum standard for laboratories to achieve.</p>		