

Availability of a candidate international standard for antibody to A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v-like viruses

Virus neutralization (VN) and haemagglutination inhibition (HI) are important serology tests to demonstrate antibody responses to influenza viruses for various purposes, including vaccine immunogenicity evaluation. These assays have shown inter-laboratory variation, which could be significantly reduced by the use of an international antibody standard.

Currently pandemic A (H1N1) vaccine clinical trials are in progress in many countries and vaccine immunogenicity is being evaluated by VN and HI assays. In order to improve the comparability of results of clinical trials and other serological studies, a candidate international standard (IS) for antibody to A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v-like viruses has been developed and is under evaluation by international collaborative studies. The candidate IS is a freeze-dried preparation of pooled human sera.

If the results of the collaborative studies are satisfactory, the candidate IS will be assigned a provisional unitage, hopefully in November 2009.

Before calibration is completed, some institutes may wish to start using the candidate IS and conduct retrospective standardization, when the assigned value is available. The candidate IS is available as reagent 09/194 from:

Division of Virology
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control
Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar
Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG, United Kingdom
E-mail: standards@nibsc.hpa.org.uk