

# What is the B-PTS?



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The **Blood Proficiency Testing Scheme (B-PTS)** is a form of External Quality Assessment (EQA) that uses inter-laboratory comparisons to determine the performance of blood-establishment (BE) laboratories responsible for testing blood donations.

The **EDQM** organises, co-ordinates and manages the scheme. It designs and organises the activity according to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity Assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing.

The **B-PTS Advisory Group (B-PTS AG)**, composed of experts in the field, supports and advises the EDQM in several areas of the Scheme.

The Scheme is run under the aegis of the European Committee (Partial Agreement) on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS). It is funded jointly by the Council of Europe/EDQM and the European Union and administered by the Council of Europe/EDQM.

The objective of the Scheme is to **maintain and improve the performance** of BE laboratories in Europe, thereby **improving the safety** of blood components and plasma-derived medicinal products and **protecting patients** who receive blood transfusions.