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| **Authors:** | ULC_logoPANDORA 10-1CANTAM03-Red_EDCTP |
| Dr Linzy Elton, University College London, UKAlp Aydin, Quadram Institute, UKDewi Owen, University College London, UKEloise Rose, University College London, UK |

**How to QC a flow cell**

Before you start sequencing, you will need to ensure that the flow cells you have bought have a good number of active pores. If, when you QC your flow cell, it has less than 800 active pores, contact Oxford Nanopore and they will send you a replacement.

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| Turn on the computer/laptop and run the MinKNOW software. Take the flow cell out of the packaging and place it into the MinION. MinKNOW will recognise the flow cell in the MinION | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC1.jpg |
| Check the **available** box | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC2.jpg |
| At the bottom left of the page, click on **check flow cells** | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC2.jpg |
| A new box will appear. Click  | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC3.jpg |
| Go to the flow cell section and click **jump to run** and then click on the **date** | **C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC4.jpg** |
| This will bring you to the working MinKNOW page. At the top you should see that the MinION is heating up to 37°C. To help it reach that temperature quicker (it times out after 10 minutes if this temperature hasn’t been achieved), warm it in your hands of place it on a mouse mat | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC5.jpg |
| Once it reaches temperature, you will see the channels panel appear. The flow cell is now being QC’d | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC6.jpg |
| To see the related information, click on the envelope in the top right corner of the screen. This will open up a side window. Once the process is finished, you will see the number of active pores displayed in this window.  | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC5.jpg |
| It is advisable to write (using a sticker) on the plastic case of the flow cell the flow cell number, date of QC and how many active pores there are for future reference | C:\Users\rekglel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\QC7.jpg |