

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IQC & EQA?



Carried out daily, providing real-time performance assessment.



No interlaboratory performance comparison without an additional peer group reporting program.



Useful for detecting sudden or gradual shifts in performance.

Internal Quality Control (IQC) - Monitoring Test System Precision/Reproducibility

ISO

ISO 15189:2012 - "The laboratory shall design internal quality control systems that verify the attainment of the intended quality of results".



IQC samples should be manufactured with a matrix which is as close to the patient sample as possible.



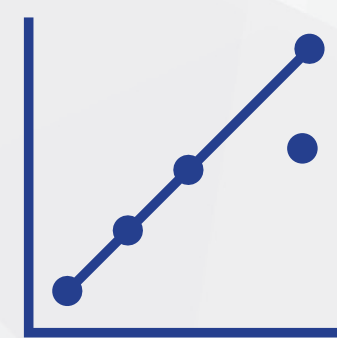
Assayed controls are supplied with pre-assigned target values which are used by the lab to determine acceptable performance. If a result falls out of range, labs may be tempted to re-run the sample until performance is acceptable.



Carried out less frequently (generally once per month), providing a retrospective assessment of performance.



Results are compared to labs using the same instrument/method type providing an indication of any test system bias.



Effective in detecting more complex problems, such as calibration issues.

External Quality Assurance (EQA) - Monitoring Test System Accuracy

ISO

ISO 15189:2012 - "The laboratory shall participate in interlaboratory comparisons such as those organised by external quality assessment schemes".



EQA samples should be manufactured with a matrix which is as close to the patient sample as possible.



The laboratory analyses 'blind samples' and returns the results to the scheme organiser for analysis. They are then presented with a report demonstrating how they have performed.

IQC & EQA are complementary. They should be run in conjunction in order to help provide a complete Quality Management System
