How to assess and select the right EQA program for the lab especially in tight economic situation.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ingo Schellenberg

M.Sc. Antonios Antoniou

The role of quality management in a medical laboratory

- Every medical laboratory must ensure to have a quality management system in place to meet general requirements for diagnostic performance.
- In this context, there are various standards and guidelines that apply:

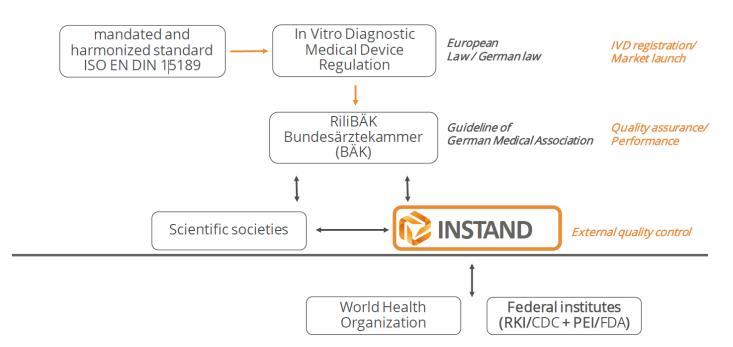
ISO 15189

ISO 17025

ISO 17043

. . .

Quality Assurance in Diagnostics



INSTAND is a scientific, independent medical society for promoting quality in medical laboratories.

Aim: improving quality in medical labs

Tools: EQA schemes, scientific activities, education

EQA schemes: sending about 160,000 samples per year to around 12,000 laboratories that participate in our EQAs

INSTAND FACTS

1. WHO WE ARE

- Founded in 1966
- Non profit, interdisciplinary, scientific medical society
- Accredited according to DIN/ISO 17043 for reference institutions

2. OUR PARTNERS

- Can rely on experienced advisers and ring test leaders for External Quality Assessment schemes
- (EQA schemes = interlaboratory comparison = proficiency testing = ring trial = round robin test)

3. OUR NETWORK

• Cooperates with national and international network of scientists

4. OUR MARKET

- In all essential fields of laboratory medicine.
- The certificates are valid for laboratory accreditation processes

INSTANDs international scientific projects 2023

EU Horizon 2020 h01 Project **GenomeMET** an innovative project to improve laboratory diagnostics in the field of innovative diagnostics of ctDNA in tumor diseases.



Collaborating project with the World Health Organization (WHO): WHO/INSTAND External Quality Assessment (EQA): WHO Monkeypox virus detection by molecular methods



Publication of EQA evaluations with scientific background. In contact with manufacturers when discrepancies should occure



INSTAND International GmbH

INSTAND international GmbH is a wholly owned subsidiary of INSTAND e.V. It is tailored to the special needs of our international participants/ costumers.

- Benefit from the unique expert network of INSTAND e.V.
- Personal customer service by our motivated employees
- Easy, accessible online platform for results and evaluation documents

What are External quality controls?

- Is the use comparisons of test results or measurements to determine and monitor the performance of individual laboratories
- Proficiency tests assess and demonstrate the reliability of the data laboratories are producing

EQAs – How it Works

- 1. Participating laboratories are provided with uniform testing objects for analysis under specified cinditions
- 2. Laboratory analyses the samples, preferably as part of their normal routine, and reports the results to the scheme organizers
- 3. Laboratory receives a report showing the extent to which its results are in compliance with the accepted values

Benefits of Quality Controlled and Standardized Diagnostics

Diagnostic data have to be solid and comparable irrespective of

- Diagnostic system
- Diagnostic laboratory
- Staff

EQAs Value & Benefits

- <u>Identifying testing or measurement problems</u>
 - May identify potential problems related to imprecision, systematic errors and/or human errors
 - o Determining method precision and accuracy
- Comparing methods and procedures
- Educating Staff
- Confirming competent performance

Correct Diagnostic Data is the basis for

- Lead to quality improvement of diagnosis
- **Protect the patient** from false positive and false negative diagnostic results and support the decision for the right therapy
- Save money for health care system
- Allow **vigilance** of the market
- Helps in the **detection** of epidemiological events (e.g.: detection of re-/emerging infections)

INSTAND AT A GLANCE



Over 390 Different EQA Schemes

Clinical Chemistry

132

Biochemistry 19
Cardiac Marker 2
Fecal Diagnostics 2
Hemostaseology 22
Hormones 13
Cerebrospinal Fluid 8
Pharmaceuticals 31
Plasma Proteins 4
POCT 6
Trace Elements 3
Tumor Markers 3

Urine Analysis 15

Vitamins 4

Virus-Diagnostics

86

Virus Gen. Detection 58 Multiplex tests 4 Virus Gen. Detection 3 Virus Immunology 25

Microbiology

68

Bacterial Gen. Det. 18
Bacteriology 3
Bacterial Inf. Serol. 23
Mycology 6
Parasite Diagnostics 9
Tubercu. Diagnostics 7
Fungal Gen. Detection 2

Genetics

49

Immunogenetics 7 Molecular Genetics 41 Transplan.diagnostics 1

Immunology

30

Autoimmune Diseases 14 Immunohematology 7 Complement Analytics 6 Immunodeficiency 2 Tubercu. diagnostics 1

Hematology

14

Allergy Diagnostics

Hand in Hand: INSTAND Calibration Laboratory

- The main task of the reference laboratory of INSTAND is the value assignment for interlaboratory samples by using reference measurement procedures.
- These assigned values are used as target values for evaluation of our EQAS as required by the German Medical Association for 32 analytes.
- The calibration laboratory also provides services for companies in the diagnostic field.
- The reference laboratory of INSTAND e.V. is listed in the database of **the Joint** Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) for measurement services for several analytes.

INSTAND Calibration Laboratory

Accreditation scope:

Enzymes ALT, AST, CK, GGT, LDH

Electrolytes Calcium, Chloride, Sodium, Potassium, Magnesium

Hormones Cortisol, 17 beta Estradiol, Progesterone, Testosterone, Thyroxin

Substrates/Metabolites Triglycerides Cholesterol, Glucose, Urea, Uric acid, Creatinine

Proteins Total Hemoglobin, Total Protein, HbA1c

Drugs Digoxin, Digitoxin, Lithium, Theophyllin

The calibration laboratory of INSTAND e.V. is **accredited** by the German accreditation body DAkkS as calibration laboratory **according to ISO 17025 and ISO 15195**

Face to face Contact with our Experts

- Cooperation with a **unique and large network of scientists** who are also serving as **advisers** and EQA experts for EQA schemes.
- Contact with **our specialists** from various disciplines such as transfusion medicine, clinical chemistry, biochemistry, etc.
 - o Feedback from experts with years of practical experience.
 - o Up to date through its unique network of scientists.
- Constantly **growing** further education programs.
- Scientific Research and Development (Research projects, publications).

How EQA schemes can make an economic impact

Cost of Quality Model



What do I need to consider for the perfect EQA scheme for my lab?

Frequency of participation

- In which time periods do I need to participate in EQAs?
 - These time periods are usually fixed by standards and regulations (e.g., German Guideline (RiliBÄK), CLIA, CBAHI.

Find an EQA provider that offers EQA as often as you need to perform it.

Frequency of participation

• In which time periods do I need to participate in EQAs? These time periods are usually fixed by standards and regulations.

(e.g. RiliBÄK Guideline of German Medical Association for quality assurance in medical laboratories) laboratories), CLIA, **CBAHI Standards**

Adenoviruses, genome detection	Half-year
Cytomegalovirus, genome detection	Half-year
Enteroviruses, genome detection	Half-year
Epstein-Barr virus, genome detection	Half-year
Hepatitis A virus, genome detection	Half-year
Hepatitis B virus, genome detection	Half-year
Hepatitis B virus, HBs antigen detection	Half-year
Hepatitis B virus, HBe antigen detection	Half-year
Hepatitis C virus, genome detection	Half-year
Hepatitis C virus genotyping, genome detection	Calendar year
Hepatitis C virus, HCV antigen detection	Half-year
Hepatitis E virus, genome detection	Half-year
Herpes simplex virus type 1 / type 2, genome detection	Half-year

Virus genome detection: most EQAs need to be participated in twice a year (Germany)

Example: German guideline: RiliBÄK (based on ISO15189)

Frequency of participation

Other

- Clinical chemistry only 3 shipments/ year
- **CRP** only 3 shipments/ year



- Clinical chemistry (100)
- 6 shipments/ year
- CRP (222)
- 4 shipments/ year

Validity of certificates

- How long are certificates valid after successful completion of EQAs.
- Do you need a certificate or a certificate of participation?

Make sure to meet all important requirements

Validity of certificates

- How long are certificates valid after successful completion of EQAs?
- Do you need a certificate or a certificate of participation?
- Virus Genome Detection Adenoviruses (371)



Show your competence: Certificates



Certificate of participation: for each participation per parameter and per term



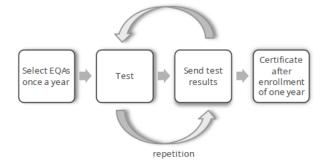
Validity is dedined by German Medical Association

Certificate: for each successful participation per parameter and per term

Validity of certificates

Other

• Certificate only after one enrollment year





• The certificate validity is based on the German guidelines of the German Medical Association and varies between a few months and one year



Certificate after every successful EQA

Ordering & flexibility

Other

- Often you can only order your EQAs once a year with order deadlines:
 - o You have to order early Programs have limited quantities
- You cannot react quickly to changes (e.g. new instruments or no longer need)



- Order your proficiency tests flexibly throughout the year
- Adapt quickly to new circumstances
- Spare sample material available on request for internal quality management
- If desired, you can opt for annual subscription
- Clear and concise deadlines for each available cycle (up to 6 EQAs per year)

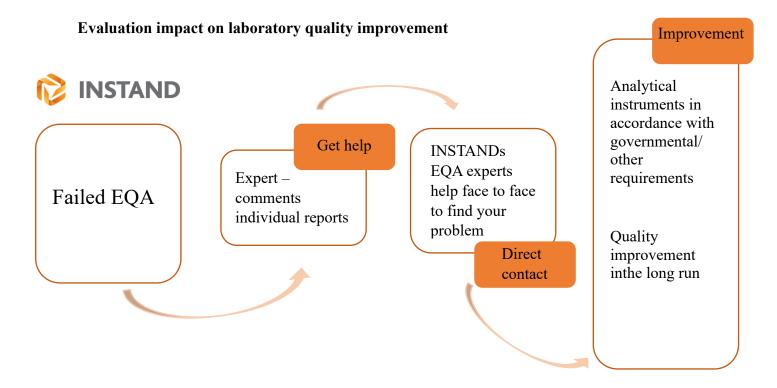
Sample Quality

How can I ensure that I get the best sample quality?

- Make sure that the samples are pre tested by selected expert laboratories with many years of experience.
- To ensure the best quality of the samples, inform yourself about the stability of the samples.
- Ask the EQA distributing institution if there is experience in long transportation routes.

How up to date is the Offer and the Sample composition?

- respond to urgent health situations (epidemiological events such mpox) in a timely manner.
- In addition, new variants are added at regular intervals, for example in INSTAND's viral genome detections.

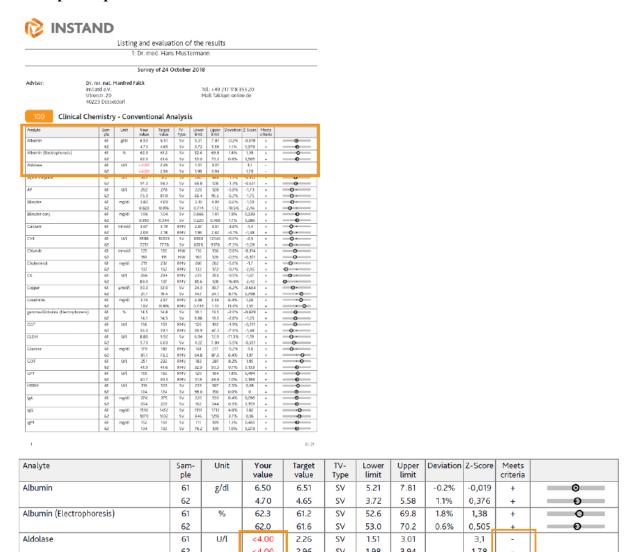


Evaluation impact on laboratory quality improvement

- Individual counselling by in case of not passing the EQA from one of our qualified 170 EQA experts.
- You will not be left alone with your problems. INSTAND's experts can support you where your analytical problem lies and help you to solve it.
- The individual support results in short response times.

Make sure to get the most of your test results

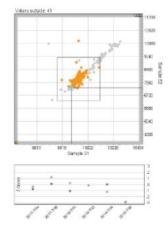
Example of quantitative evaluation documents Individual results



Red numbers and (criteria = no certificate for the corresponding analyte)

Interpretation of quantitative evaluation documents General overview (Peer Groups)

Collective	Sam-	Target	Targ	et r	ange	Participants collective			Rate	(%)
	ple	value				AVG	CV	Num.	Sam.	total
Abbott	61	12079	9905	-	14253	12079	3.52	25	96.0	96.0
	62	9153	7505	\sim	10801	9153	2.80	25	96.0	
Beckman	61	9897	8116	- 1	11678	9897	3.42	14	100	100
	62	7552	6193	-	8911	7552	3.24	14	100	
Siemens (Bayer Health)	61	12525	10271	-	14780	12525	7.95	32	100	100
	62	9335	7655	-	11015	9335	8.17	32	100	
Siemens	61	16235	13313	-	19157	16235	5.69	40	92.5	92.5
(Dade Behring)	62	12706	10419		14993	12706	3.76	40	97.5	
Olympus	61	9964	8170	-	11758	9964	3.73	58	98.3	98.3
07.80 1.700.0	62	7592	6225		8959	7592	4.06	58	98.3	
Roche	61	10203	8366		12040	10203	2.08	273	99.6	99.3
(A) (C) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A) (A	62	7776	6376		9176	7776	2.35	273	99.3	100000
oher provider (1)	61	9527	7812	-	11242	9527	11.2	7		
100	62	7277	5967	-	8587	7277	8.22	7		



- Participant's collective is marked with an orange bar on the left side of the collective's name.
- In corresponding Youden plot, laboratory's collective is coloured orange.
- Participant's value is marked in blue.
- The evaluation area is marked with a cube.
- Z- scores from your last EQAs are tracked for both samples

Interpretation of qualitative evaluation documents Individual results



- Qualitative evaluations only show participant's specification(s), as well as the correct specification(s).
- Target value type can be either "ET"- Expert Decision" or "M Modal Value".
- If parameter is not passed, the specification is red and "Meets criteria" shows (-)

Analyte	Sam- ple	Method	Manu- facturer	Device	Your specification(s)	Correct specification(s)	TV- Type	Meets criteria
Albumin - Urine	61	177	RO		negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
	62				negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
Bilirubin	61	178	RO	RO81	negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
	62				negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
Erythrocytes	61	178	RO	RO81	negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
	62				negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
Glucose	61	178	RO	RO81	positive (3)	positive (3)	М	+
	62				negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
hCG	61	177	MV		positive (3)	positive (3)	М	+
	62				negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
Ketone Bodies	61	178	RO	RO81	negative (1)	negative (1)	М	+
	62				positive (3)	negative, borderline, positive (3,1,2)	М	+
		470		2004	/45	/45		

Interpretation of qualitative evaluation documents General overview (Peer Groups)

Urine Chemistry 01 (Qualitative)

Albumin - Urine (N = 81, Rate of success: 75,3%)

Sample 61

Collective	negative (1)	borderline (2)	positive (3)	total
Siemens	13 •	0	4	17
Roche	20 •	4	2	26
others	33 •	3	2	38

Sample 62

Collective	negative (1)	borderline (2)	positive (3)	total
Siemens	16 •	0	0	16
Roche	22 •	4	0	26
others	32 •	2	4	38

The point corresponds to the correct result, the horizontal bar corresponds to your specification, the vertical bar corresponds to your collective

Bilirubin (N = 557, Rate of success: 99,5%)

Sample 61

Collective	negative (1)	positive (3)	total
Analyticon	9 •	0	9
Siemens	132 •	0	132
IRIS International	24 •	0	24
AxonLab, Menarini	18 •	0	18
Macherey-Nagel	16 •	0	16
Roche	230 •	0	230
others	127 •	1	128

Sample 62

Jumpie 02			
Collective	negative (1)	positive (3)	total
Analyticon	9 •	0	9
Siemens	132 •	0	132
IRIS International	24 •	0	24
AxonLab, Menarini	18 •	0	18
Macherey-Nagel	16 •	0	16
Roche	230 •	0	230
others	126 •	1	127

The point corresponds to the correct result, the horizontal bar corresponds to your specification, the vertical bar corresponds to your collective points of the point corresponds to the correct result, the horizontal bar corresponds to your specification, the vertical bar corresponds to your collective points of the point corresponds to the correct result.

In Microbiology and in Virology, more than one Result per Term can be Reported

Interpretation of virology evaluation documents Individual resultsl

Virus Immunology - Hepatitis B Virus Program 1 (HBsAg, Anti-HBs, Anti-HBc)

All entered test systems will be displayed on the evaluation documents.

HBsAg (qualitative)					+
Name of test	Unit	Method	Manufacturer		
ARCHITECT HBsAg II Qualitativ		Immunological test (CMIA) (241)	ABBOTT (AB)		
Result (qual)	Sample	Your specification(s)	Correct specification(s)	TV- Type	Meets criteria
	344409	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344410	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344411	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344412	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
Name of test	Unit	Method	Manufacturer		
Elecsys HBsAg II		Immunological test (ECLIA) (189)	ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS (RO)		
Result (qual)	Sample	Your specification(s)	Correct specification(s)	TV- Type	Meets criteria
	344409	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344410	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344411	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+
	344412	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positive (3)	SV	+

The general overview has to be downloaded separately, due to the huge size of the documents.

Combined qualitative and quantitative results for this parameter.

BsAg (qualitative and results in							
Name of test	Unit	Method	Manuf	acturer			
ARCHITECT HBsAg Quantitativ	IU/ml	Immunological test (CMIA) (241)	ABBOTT (AB)				
Result (quant)	Sample	Your value	Lower limit	Upper limit	TV- Type	Target value	Meets criteria
	344409	2.31	1.10	4.60	ET	2.32	+
	344410	1.16	0.550	2.30	ET	1.14	+
	344411	7.65	4.40	18.4	ET	8.66	+
	344412	4.32	2.20	9.20	ET	4.44	+
Result (qual)	Sample	Your specification(s)	Correct spe	cification(s)	TV- Type		Meets criteria
	344409	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positi	ve (3)	ET		+
	344410	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positi	ve (3)	ET		+
	344411	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positi	ve (3)	ET		+
	344412	reactive/ positive (3)	reactive/ positi	ve (3)	ET		+

EQA Expert's comments



Advice for failed participation



EQA Expert's comments

Extra INSTAND EQA Scheme (340) Virus Genome Detection SARS-CoV-2 Term April 2020 - Qualitative Tables 2.2 Sample properties
For the Extra EQA scheme (340) "Virus Genome Detection – SARS-CoV-2" April 2020 70: PCR-34070 - SARS-CoV-2 (RNA) - qualitative Table 2: Sample properties Sample 340059 (Result (qual)) - SARS-CoV-2 positive (inactivated), 1 : 1 000 diluted ORF1ab ANATOLIA GENEWORKS 340059*.5 SARS-CoV-2 positive, lysate of SARS-CoV-2** infected cells (SARS-CoV-2 inactivated) 1:1000*.5 SARS-CoV-2 negative, lysate of HCoV OC43 infected cells as specificity control 340060^s 1:25005 APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS TagMan 2019-nCoV Assay Kit v1 20.0 19.5 20.9 SARS-CoV-2 positive, lysate of SARS-CoV-2** infected cells (SARS-CoV-2 inactivated) 1:1000000 340061* ja BOSCH HEALTHCARE SOLU IS Vivalytic VRI Multiplex Test SARS-CoV-2 negative, lysate of non-infected cells (MRC-5 cells) DIASORIN Simplexa COVID-19 Direct Kit 19.3 19.1 19.8 SARS-CoV-2 positive, lysate of SARS-CoV-2** infected cells (SARS-CoV-2 inactivated) 1:10 000* Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real Tir Multiplex RT-PCR Kit LIFERIVER 23.0 18.0 23.0 SARS-CoV-2 positive, lysate of SARS-CoV-2** infected cells (SARS-CoV-2 inactivated) 340064*.5 1:100 000* neins ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS COBAS SARS-CoV-2 Test 21.8 21.8 21.8 340065 SARS-CoV-2 negative, lysate of HCoV 229E infected cells as specificity control VITASSAY Vitassay qPCR SARSCoV-2 22.7 22.4 23.0 21.8 10.9 29.1 1:2500 ja The positive samples 340059, 304061, 340063 and 340064 represent different dilution steps of a dilution series of all lysate of cells infected with SARS-CoV-2. In the interim evaluation of 17 April 2020, all participants in the Extra INSTAND EQA scheme (340) virus genome detection of SARS-CoV-2 April 2020 were informed of the sample properties of samples 340009, 340000 and 340004. The results of these 3 samples are not taken into account when issuing a certificate of successful participation. OTHER MANUFACTURERS 23.6 21.8 32.1 However, the results submitted for samples 340061, 340062, 340063 and 340065 are considered for the evaluation when issuing a certificate of successful participation. IN HOUSE

Comments may also include detailed sample information and a more detailed overall evaluation.

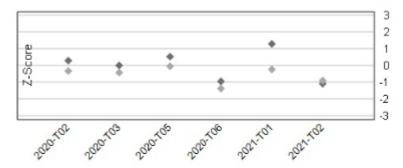
How up to date is the evaluation?

Other

- Other EQA providers offer extra accuracy based programs with additional fees
- Mostly, the peer group mean is designated as the target value for evaluation
- The peer group must consist of greater than nine results after outlier exclusion and the variability of the peer group data must not be too great

INSTAND

- According to the guidelines of the German Medical Association, the evaluation is always carried out with the value of the reference method, if such is available
- Peer group must consist of greater than three results



Education

- Seminars at regular intervals in order to support the participants in continuously improving their diagnostic performance, for example in the field of CSF diagnostics.
- Promote quality in medical laboratories with innovative, practice oriented, and diverse training by our specialized experts by:
 - o Online training courses
 - o Seminars
 - Self study courses
- English courses such as Online Training urine sediment, Online Training Preanalyticsl

LaboZertGmbH

LaboZertGmbH is a wholly owned subsidiary of INSTAND e.V.

It is a pioneer in the certification/accreditation of medical laboratories with an

- Innovative
- Paperless
- Transparent
- confidential
- and neutral certification process.



Total Mobility

Flexibility

Access our Web App anywhere to check the status and to communicate with LaboZert and our auditors