

Another requirement is that the constituent levels in the material you purchase should cover as much of the expected patient range as possible, and preferably with some testing of quality at the clinical decision making levels, the so-called cut-offs between healthy and non-healthy people. From this requirement, it becomes obvious why it is almost impossible to use only a single QC material to cover all ranges on all tests.

Finally, there is no perfect control material and there is no right and wrong way to choose control materials. The selection of such materials is a combination of a balancing act and compromise, and by adhering to the areas briefly described above you should be able to make an informed choice.

**CPD Questions:**

- 8. If a control sample has an SD of 0.2 for Analyte X, does that indicate that Analyte X is better performed than Analyte Z where the control has an SD of 2.0? The answer to that apparently simple question is: it depends. If the control has a mean value of 5.0 for Analyte X and a mean value of 100 for Analyte Z, which method is better performed?  
A) The method for Analyte Z  
B) The method for Analyte X**
- 9. It is always best/ simplest to use printed ranges in commercial package inserts to control your Internal QC,  
A) True  
B) False**