

These standards have thus been designed by an overseas expert and modified to fit our local circumstances by local pathologists and other experts. They can truly be regarded as the first local attempt to define appropriate and achievable standards of performance.

Let's define levels of 'quality' responsibility

Each and every one of us has duties and responsibilities with regard to quality standards in our laboratory. In fact, ask yourself: which of my daily activities does NOT affect the quality of my patient results? The answer is that everything you do has an impact: from ordering quality instruments or reagents to training staff, from deciding how often to run QC samples to discussing patient results with wards or clinicians, and from writing protocols to drawing up leave rosters. Everything has a quality impact.

Your patient deserves good quality: it is your duty to assist in providing it.

CPD Questions: NB – select the choice you consider MOST correct

6. QC is performed to satisfy accreditation requirements.
A) True
B) False

7. Why must 5% of control results be outside the +/- 2 SD ranges you have established yourself?
A) Because 95% of results must be inside the +/- 2 SD ranges
B) The 2 SD ranges have been created using the Probability Theory, which states that if a result is inside +/- 2 SD, then it is unlikely you have an analytical problem; and if too many result are outside the +/- 2 SD ranges, you have a problem.

8. Explain why it is not “good laboratory practice” to use package insert ranges to control your laboratory analytical performance.
A) They are guides only, and the package insert should tell you this.
B) Because you will not know when you have a problem until it is serious.

9. Why is the control requirement wider for creatinine than for sodium?
A) Because BV is wider for creatinine than for sodium.
B) Because sodium is easier to measure

10. Is Biological Variation a suitable starting point towards establishing acceptable laboratory standards of analytical performance?
A) Yes
B) Yes