

Changes to Coagulation EQA

PTT

After a long period of statistical evaluation, we are about to change the way we collect results and report our Coagulation EQA.

From the start of the next Cycle 33 in May 2008, the results return sheets will show that PTT will be reported to us as seconds only. We will no longer collect your "reference ranges" or report back you "%MRR, percentage of the midpoint of your reference range". Not only will this mean we don't have to tramp the country trying to explain how this system works and why we use it - it also means that reports will be easier to understand.

Statistically there will be very little difference for the majority of labs. Labs who established their own reference ranges for PTT, and who had apparent poor performance with "%MRR" will find their real performance looks much better!

INR and Fibrinogen will remain unchanged.

Kit stats or Instrument stats?

We had hoped to base the right hand Levey-Jennings graph on our report on the kit you use. Ideally, of course, it should be absolutely specific stats in that graph that is your kit on your instrument. Sadly, the numbers are generally inadequate for us to do this. Therefore we are leaving the reports the same in this respect that is you will see your results compared to all others using your instrument, regardless of the kit in use.

We are aware of limitations with this approach and have two projects in mind.

The first involves potentially removing the left hand Levey-Jennings, the "overall stats" graph and replacing it with some sort of histogram, allowing you to see where other users of your kit and instrument perform against all other labs.

The second project is to investigate joining forces with an International Coagulation EQA. The advantages are that the data base will be much larger and coagulation factors will be included. The disadvantage is that the cost may be higher.

We will keep you informed of progress in regard to these projects.

Jim McCulloch
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