

STOCKHOLM CONSENSUS

Analytical goals in Laboratory Medicine

Laboratories must ensure that the analytical quality attained is appropriate for the needs of the clinical service. Selecting the analytical goal is an essential part of quality control planning. They are also useful for drawing up specifications for new analyser tendering procedures, method evaluation, in the design of external quality assurance performance criteria and to assist manufacturers in the design and marketing of products. A hierarchical strategy was proposed recently at the Stockholm Consensus Conference on Quality Specifications in Laboratory Medicine (1).

1. Evaluation of the effect of analytical performance on clinical outcomes in specific clinical setting.
2. Evaluation of the effect of analytical performance on clinical decisions in general with data derived from either biological variation or from data based on clinicians' opinions.
3. Published professional recommendations either from National or International expert bodies or from expert local groups or individuals.
4. Performance goals set by regulatory bodies or organisers of External Quality Assessment Schemes.
5. Goals based on the current state of the art as demonstrated by data from EQA or from current publications on methodology.

The models higher in the hierarchy are to be preferred to those at the lower level.

1. Kenny D, Fraser C.G , Hyltoft Petersen P, Kallner A. Strategies to set Global Analytical Quality Specifications in Laboratory Medicine – Consensus agreement. Scan J Clin Lab Invest 1999; 59: 585