

EQA for Lipid Screening in Pharmacies

Quality assurance is crucial to the delivery of such tests as it ensures that the results generated are accurate and reliable. In addition to routine quality checks, it is recommended that pharmacies should also participate in External Quality Assessment (EQA), where unknown samples are tested at regular intervals:

- The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) Pharmacy Practice Guidance Manual states that for any pharmacy testing cholesterol "external quality control must be exercised regularly to ensure robust test results".
- New guidelines "Safe Use and Management of Point of Care Testing in Primary and Community Care" (to be published shortly) also recommend EQA for pharmacies. These guidelines have been approved by the PSI, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Faculty of Pathology RCPI, the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI), the Academy of Medical Laboratory Science (AMLS) and the Irish Medicines Board (IMB).

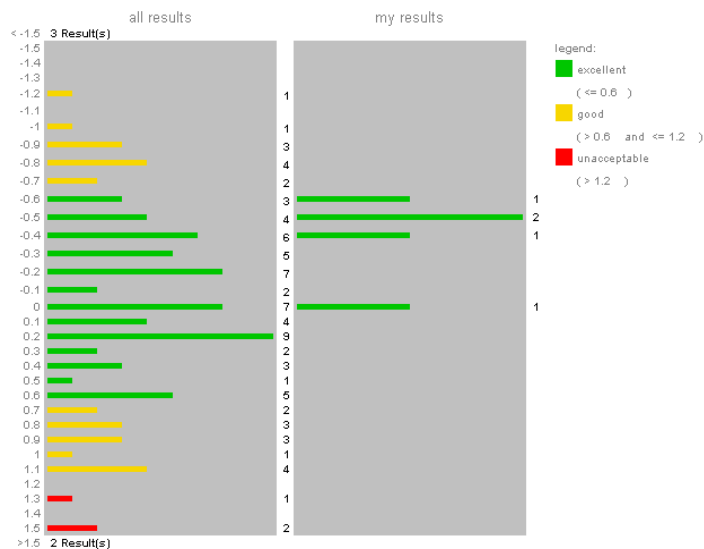
The Irish EQA Scheme (IEQAS) offers EQA services (>70 different schemes) to hospital medicine and community care. Our EQA scheme for Lipids is suitable for pharmacy use and is currently providing EQA for the IPU/TCD Health Screening Study which is taking place nationally.

report settings		all results		my results	
sample	WEQAS 1007	n	90	n	5
analyte	Chol	minimum	2.59	minimum	4.45
reporting in	mmol/l	maximum	7.09	maximum	5.03
deviation	absolute (resolution 0.1)	average	5.10	average	4.66
reference method	median	median	5.08	median	4.59
reference value	5.08 mmol/l	SD	0.80	SD	0.20
comparison	all results and my results	CV	15.5 %	CV	4.8 %

Process

Every two months, 0.5ml sterile human serum is supplied for the analysis of cholesterol, HDL, triglycerides and glucose.

Results are sent back to IEQAS for analysis.



Reports

All results are colour coded for ease of identification in a traffic light system (see example):

green (excellent)
yellow (good)
red (unacceptable)

For price and further information, please contact Patricia Howley, IEQAS Operations Manager, at 01 4957356 or patricia@ieqas.ie.



Member of EQALM (European Committee for External Quality Assurance Programmes in Laboratory Medicine)

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